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ABSTRACT

This bibliography of books either written by Canadians or with Canadian content is compiled and distributed to all Manitoba schools in order to assist teachers, librarians, and administrators in the selection of quality materials. Grade levels, not necessarily the same as reading levels, are indicated by broad categories: early years (K-4); middle years (5-8); and senior years (9-12). The materials are rated by the following categories: highly recommended; recommended with reservations; and not recommended by reviewer. Where provided, price and ISBN number are included for each item. Subject headings used are the ones which correspond most closely to the subjects taught in school and include: Activity Books; Art--Hobbies & Crafts; Canadian Studies; Guidance; Health; History; Home Economics -- Family Life; Language and Literature; Miscellaneous; Native Studies; Professional Development; Reference; Science; Social Studies; and Women's Studies. A directory of publishers and index of titles are included. (ALF)



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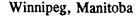
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PREFACE

The original edition of this bibliography was compiled and distributed to all Manitoba schools in order to make quality Canadian materials known to teachers, librarians and administrators. Since that time the area of publishing for children and young adults in Canada has undergone a period of exciting growth. Although Canadian materials suitable for some subject areas are still limited in quantity, the publication of In Search of Canadian Materials and its Supplements has proven that more and more quality materials are available each year. [PLEASE NOTE: Since 1978, In Search of Canadian Materials has been treated as an annual and thus the practice of issuing supplements discontinued.]

This publication is an aid designed to assist in the selection of materials for schools. Grade levels are indicated by broad categories; particular suitability is indicated; and, where provided, price and ISBN stated for each item. The reviews fall into four categories: highly recommended, recommended, recommended with reservations, and not recommended by reviewer. The inclusion of this last category was provided for users of the bibliography to recognize that, although the title has been considered it has been rejected for particular reasons. In addition, it is important for teacher-librarians to seek out other reviewing media if they wish further critical analysis of a title under consideration. Another source of reviews is CM: a reviewing journal of Canadian materials for young people available from the Canadian Library Association in Ottawa. All persons involved in ordering materials for school library or clar from use should have an opportunity to use In Search of Canadian Materials 1991, which is distributed to all schools in Manitoba.

<u>In Search of Canadian Materials</u>, published in 1978, and its 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1986 <u>Supplements</u>, <u>In Search of Canadian Materials 1987</u>, <u>1988</u>, 1989, and <u>1990</u> were sent previously to Manitoba schools. These publications are also available for loan from the Library, Manitoba Education and Training. Call numbers are as follows:

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015.71 M35 x - 1984 Supplement

015.71 M35 y - 1986 Supplement

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015.71 M35 1990 - In Search of Canadian Materials 1990.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Manitoba Education and Training is indebted to the members of the Manitoba School Library Audio Visual Association (M.S.L.A.V.A) and interested teachers who responded to the request for volunteers to read, evaluate and annotate most of the items in <u>In Search of Canadian Materials 1991</u>. Without their dedicated assistance the publication of the bibliography would not have been possible.

Special thanks are due to Samantha Rothwell, who assisted in contacting publishers regarding new Canadian materials and to Joan Fergusson, who typed the manuscript.

Lastly, a word of thanks to the publishers who support this project through the provision of review copies of the books.

Lorrie Andersen Coordinator, Collection Development Services Instructional Resources Branch



KEY

BOOKS

GRADE LEVEL - has been indicated by three broad categories: Early Years (K-4); Middle Years (5-8); Senior Years (9-12)

The coding does <u>not</u> indicate the reading level of the material, as some books are included at lower levels because they are useful as teachers' reference materials. Most of the strictly Early Years (K-4) materials are included in the "Picture Book" category, but other books suitable for Early Years readers can be found among the titles noted as Early Years.

<u>SUBJECT HEADINGS</u> - those used are the ones which correspond most closely to the subjects taught in school, so that teachers can find materials appropriate to their subject areas. Occasionally materials cover several areas; so the title index is useful if you are unable to locate something by subject headings.

SELECTION GUIDE - the items included represent what are generally considered quality materials by educators. However, some items do contain passages which some segments of the community may find offensive due to the explicitness of the text or to the religious, social or political views expressed. The nature of the community served by the school should be kept in mind when selecting materials.

A rating system includes four categories: Highly Recommended; Recommended; Recommended with Reservations; and Not Recommended by Reviewer. Special caution should be exercised when selecting materials with the latter two ratings.

The bibliography includes materials which have Canadian content, or are written by Canadians.

<u>PRICES</u> - fluctuate rapidly; and the user should be aware that the stated price may not be the current one. Some prices were not supplied with review copies of the books. For ease in ordering, the ISBN is included for most of the titles.



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ACTIVITY BOOKS

Bosak, Susan V. SCIENCE IS... (Rev. 2nd ed.) Richmond Hill: Scholastic Canada, 1991. 515 pp. \$29.95 PB 0-590-74070-9

See description under Science

Evans, David. FISHING FOR ANGELS: THE MAGIC OF KITES. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1991. 63 pp. \$12.95 PB 1-55037-158-4

Folklore, history, modern kites, designs for making your own kites and directions for flying them are some of the topics tackled in this polished presentation. In addition to the origin and development of kites, the book presents stories and traditions from Hawaii, Bali, New Zealand, Japan, China and even one modern day story. A glossary and bibliography rounds out the book.

Highly recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Gold, Carol. SCIENCE EXPRESS: AN ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE BOOK OF EXPERIMENTS. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. 96 pp. \$9.95 PB 1-55074-017-2; \$19.95 HC 1-55074-015-6

See description under SCIENCE

Irvine, Joan. MAKE IT WITH BOXES. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. 96 pp. \$9.95 PB 1-55074-056-3

This delightful, useful book teaches children how to make and use boxes to produce costumes, theatre, games, surprises and dioramas. Directions are simple and explicit, emphasizing safety; steps are numbered. Large, clear illustrations feature multiracial children of both sexes, aged ten to twelve. Pages are numbered, and although there is no index, the table of contents is detailed. Creators trace geometric shapes to make box patterns. Perfect for the intended audience (and their teachers!)

Highly recommended

EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Kaner, Etta. SOUND SCIENCE. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. 96 pp. \$9.95 PB 1-55074-054-7

See description under SCIENCE

MacLeod, Elizabeth. THE RECYCLING BOOK: GREAT THINGS TO MAKE FROM BOTTLES, CANS, NEWSPAPERS AND MORE. Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1991. 48 pp. \$7.95 PB 0-920775-58-6

This title follows up on the idea that making useful and/or decorative items out of what might have been junk is environmentally sound. It will be a boon to the craft activity section where children often look to find exciting, low-budget projects that will open new avenues for fun.

Recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

MAGICAL FUN. The editors of OWL and Chickadee Magazines. Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1991. 32 pp. \$7.95 PB 0-920775-56-X

Readers will enjoy baffling their friends with a variety of simple tricks, puzzles, magic, and fortune telling presented by the editors of <u>OWL</u> and <u>Chickadee</u> magazines. The collection is well-organized with colour photos and easy to follow, illustrated step-by-step instructions. Most activities require simple materials such as paper, glue, water, scissors, or paints.

Recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Ripley, Catherine. TWO DOZEN DINOSAURS: A FIRST BOOK OF DINOSAUR FACTS, MYSTERIES, GAMES AND FUN. Vancouver: Greey de Pencier Books, 1991. 32 pp. \$9.95 PB 0-920775-55-1

Excellent illustrations by Bo-Kim Louie. A wide variety of activities, information and new approaches make this fashionably presented title a valuable addition to any dinosaur theme. Includes a "turonnausaurus tale" in rebus style as well as other



imaginative touches that help to bring the information to life!

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Schmidt, Norman Jacob. DISCOVER AERODYNAMICS WITH PAPER AIRPLANES. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991. 40 pp. \$14.95 PB 0-920541-43-7

Following a brief history of flight this manual describes the principles of aerodynamics concisely with simple language and clear black and white illustrations. Touches of bright yellow complement the book's overall design. Scattered throughout are "Think and Do" suggestions with questions and ideas for hands-on reinforcement of concepts.

Plans range from the basic to fairly complicated and challenging. Those who are model buffs will certainly be able to follow these.

Includes glossary, ideas for competition flights and reproducible masters for several planes.

This is a book which stretches beyond the craft/activity category. It can be very supportive of curriculum units on flight and physics.

Highly recommended MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

ART - HOBBIES & CRAFTS

Schmidt, Norman Jacob. DISCOVER AERODYNAMICS WITH PAPER AIRPLANES. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991. 40 pp. \$14.95 PB 0-9205441-43-7

See description under ACTIVITY BOOKS.

Wallace, Mary. HOW TO MAKE GREAT STUFF TO WEAR. Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1991. 88 pp. \$9.95 PB 0-920775-68-3

Glossy, colour photos, an index, table of contents,

numbered pages and clear 'irections make this book easy to use. Use of common, household ingredients and recycled materials is stressed. Classic recipes for pompoms and papier maché share space with new ideas for paper or felt hats, shrink-wrap jewelry and grub tubs. Excessive stress on safety will irritate older students; younger students will struggle with the small print and detailed directions. However, craft devotees will love it!

Recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Walter, F. Virginia. GREAT NEWSPAPER CRAFTS. Winnipeg: Hyperion Press, 1991. 80 pp. \$14.95 HC 0-920534-75-9

Everyone loves a good crafts book especially one like this with good colour photographs and lots of diagrams. The author has collected an unusual variety of projects for children, ranging in scope from crafts to costumes to curriculum support ideas. With clear and well-illustrated directions, this book would make a good classroom resource for anyone wishing to turn old newspapers into useful articles. Table of contents, and an index, too.

Highly recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

CANADIAN STUDIES

A/LONG PRAIRIE LINES: AN ANTHOLOGY OF LONG PRAIRIE POEMS. Daniel S. Lenoski, editor. Winnipeg: Turnstone Press, 1989. 343 pp. \$169.95 PB 0-88801-143-1

See description under LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - POETRY

Golick, Jill. GOVERNMENT IN ACTION. Torcnto: Gage Educational Publishing, 1990. 88 pp. \$11.20 PB 0-7715-8173-4

Even without an index, the extensive table of contents, excellent organization and beautiful layout combine to make this book an excellent resource on



civics. Three units--Structure on government, Issues, and Taking action--are sub-divided into chapters. At chapter's end, there are questions, and sometimes suggested activities.

Recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Poirier, Thelma. **GRASSLANDS**. Regina: Coteau Books, 1990. 79 pp. \$8.00 PB 1-55050-006-6

See description under LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - POETRY

Saunders, Margaret. BRIDGING THE GAP: IMMIGRANT POEMS. Goderich: Moonstone Press, 1990. 63 pp. \$7.95 PB 0-920259-31-6

See description under LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - POETRY

CANADIAN STUDIES - BIOGRAPHY

Fryer, Mary Beacock. **EMILY STOWE: DOCTOR AND SUFFRAGIST**. [Canadian medical lives; no. 6] Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1990. 150 pp. \$17.95. HC 1-55002-084-6

Emily Stowe, known more for her crusades for women's rights than for becoming the first women doctor, is cleverly portrayed in this very readable biography. Against a backdrop of Victorian Canada, Stowe fought for social issues, including enfranchisement, female education, temperance and the abolition of slavery. The last of the eleven concise chapters gives the reader hope that Emily's daughter, Augusta, will continue the important work her mother began. The index, endnotes and bibliography make this publication very usable for students doing research.

Highly recommended MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Swainson, Donald. SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: THE MAN AND THE POLITICIAN. (2nd

ed.) Kingston: Quarry Press, 1989. 170 pp. \$12.95 PB 0-919627-29-3

See description under CANADIAN STUDIES - HISTORY

CANADIAN STUDIES - GEOGRAPHY

ANOTHER LOST WHOLE MOOSE CATALOGUE. Whitehorse: Lost Moose Publishing, 1991. 156 pp. \$19.95 PB 0-9694612-0-8

This is a witty, contemporary look at the Yukon "Whole Earth" style--an oversized volume containing history, trivia, geographical data, recipes, poetry, fiction and more. It is described by the coordinator of the project as "part almanac, part storybook, part sourcebook, part guidebook". Liberally illustrated with black and white drawings and photos.

Some examples of entries are: "Tips to the outhouse", "Sweat off the brow: layering clothing in the outdoors", "Care of your cast iron fry pan", "Warming up to Arctic charr" and "Some myths about Yukon soil".

Some photos of nudes (from behind) and an explicit entry on safe sex may cause concerns in some cormunities.

Recommended with reservations SENIOR YEARS

Cartwright, Fraser. THE LIVING ATLAS.
Toronto: Gage Educational Publishing, 1991. 68
pp. \$16.19 PB 0-7715-8178-8

THE LIVING ATLAS.
TEACHER'S RESOURCE. Toronto: Gage
Educational Publishing, 1991. 129 pp. \$34.95 PB
0-7715-8176-9

The intention is to provide a "user-friendly" guide to develop map skills. The result is a colourful, attractive atlas that takes students through the basics of map skills step-by-step, using relevant, readily understood Canadian examples.



Students learn the ABC's of map skills in interesting hands-on activities that make a strong connection between the 2D map and the 3D world which it represents. The accompanying Tracher's Resource book clarifies objectives and strategies, and provides plenty of additional activities including copy pages which structure students' skills development and have been designed for use with specific pages in The living atlas.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

CREATING IDEAS AND INFORMATION: STUDIES IN COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY. [Connect Canada] Rowland Lorimer, editor. Calgary: Detselig Enterprises, 1991. 106 pp. \$19.95 PB 1-55059-016-2

Each chapter of this book deals with a separate communications issue: commercial radio; the cultural aspects of Inuit broadcasting; the mandate and activities of the CBC; the broadcasting of the Olympics; proprietary information, and Telidon. The provision of an index would have been useful.

Recommended SENIOR YEARS

Draper, Graham A. GLOBAL ATLAS. Toronto: Gage Educational Publishing, 1991. 96 pp. \$27.50 PB 0-7715-8170-X

RESOURCE. Toronto: Gage Educational Publishing, 1991. 230 pp. \$34.95 PB 0-7715-8178-5

Beautifully planned and executed, with a lie-flat coil binding, this production has struck a balance of sophistication and usefulness, providing both a set of informative maps about the world and a guide to interpreting features on a variety of maps. Photographs and graphic illustrations elucidate the meaning of climatic, vegetative, cultural terms.

The teacher's resource provides a thorough guide to using these maps with students. As well, it provides a host of activities to motivate student use of the atlas in the form of sample questions to check understanding of map skills, charts to fill in, and simulation games to promote research, synthesis, expression and discussion. In addition, nearly 30

pages of outline maps are provided. Though mainly applicable to the secondary level, there are applications for the grades four and five social studies curriculum as well.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Emmond, Kenneth Donald. MANITOBA. [Discover Canada] Toronto: Grolier Limited, 1991. 128 pp. \$24.95 HC 0-7172-2717-0

Manitoba, a title in the Discover Canada series, is an exceptionally fine piece of work. The geological history of Manitoba, the climate, the settling of Manitoba, the industries, the government, and the role of agriculture are some of the topics explored. Very useful is the addition of a "Facts at at glance chapter" summing up the important points of this province. Important dates, important people, maps and an index complete the book. Following almost the same format and equally recommended is Nova Scotia, also from the series.

Highly recommended MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

LeVert, Suzanne. LET'S DISCOVER CANADA. MANITOBA. New York: Chelsea House, 1991. 64 pp. \$21.99 HC 0-7910-1025-2

Manitoba from the Let's discover Canada series fills a need for information on the province. It has chapters on the economy, history, peoples, land, festivals and more plus the provision of lots of photographs. Useful, also, are the maps, chronology, further reading, index and "Manitoba at a glance" page. Unfortunately, this otherwise excellent book is marred by errors such as placing St. Boniface as a city on the outskirts of Winnipeg on pages 6 and 40, the reference to an unknown Wildlife Museum but no mention of the popular Fort Whyte Centre and a few other obvious mistakes.

Recommended with reservations MIDDLE YEARS

MOVING PEOPLE AND RESOURCES: STUDIES IN TRANSPORTATION. [Connect Canada] Donald C. Wilson, editor. Calgary: Detselig Enterprises, 1991. 128 pp. \$21.95 PB 1-55059-018-9



Both historic and current modes of transportation are presented in this well-developed book. The role of the canoe in early transportation, the railway, the St. Lawrence Seaway, pipelines, city transit systems and the airlines each occupy a chapter. Diagrams, photographs, maps are useful. All in all, a good anthology, in spite of the weak chapter on the airlines. An index would have been very helpful.

Recommended SENIOR YEARS

Ross, Eila Hopper. **CRY TO THE MOMENT**. Burlington: Perfect Pages of Burlington, 1989. 424 pp. \$23.95 PB 1-895047-00-5

The writer attempts to cover a wide range of historic material, from ancient Orkney to the development of Western Canada by the Hudson's Bay Company to the settlement of Upper Canada. The novel lacks focus.

There is no character development as the reader attempts to follow the fortunes of various members of an Orkney family. Each person is used to explain a particular geographical feature or time period. Historical events are sometimes mentioned, but never explored or explained.

Perhaps useful for background information.

Recommended with reservations SENIOR YEARS

CANADIAN STUDIES - HISTORY

Careless, J.M.S. CARELESS AT WORK: SELECTED CANADIAN HISTORICAL STUDIES. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1990. 359 pp. \$34.95 HC 1-55002-067-6

Although J.M.S. Careless, History Professor Emeritus of the University of Toronto, co-authored several high school history texts, this book, written at the university level, would be of limited use in high schools except as a reference for teachers or for students with a particular interest in the topics covered.

Containing selections of work done by Professor Careless over the past 50 years, the topics include George Brown, metropolitanism, urbanization, and Canadian identity.

Recommended with reservations TEACHER REFERENCE

Leden, Christian. ACROSS THE KEEWATIN ICEFIELDS: THREE YEARS AMONG THE CANADIAN ESKIMOS, 1913-1916. Winnipeg: Watson & Dwyer Publishing, 1990. 298 pp. \$17.00 PB 0-920486-46-0; \$35.00 HC 0-920486-19-3

This very descriptive, diary-like presentation of Christian Leden's travels with the Keewatin Eskimos between 1913 to 1916, depicts the customs and practices of these native people before they were changed by "civilized ways". Leden, who had an intense interest in anthropology and the music of the indigenous people, gives the reader a feel for the harsh realities of the land and an appreciation for the nature of the people whose survival skills, of necessity, were honed to perfection. The bibliography, index and appendix make this publication easy to use for research purposes; but, because the topic is so specialized and nairow, the book's usefulness in curriculum related research is limited.

Recommended with reservations SENIOR YEARS

Ross, Eila Hopper. CRY TO THE MOMENT. Burlington: Perfect Pages of Burlington, 1989. 424 pp. \$23.95 PB 1-895047-00-5

See description under CANADIAN STUDIES - GEOGRAPHY

Ross, Hugh Mackay. **THE MANAGER'S TALE**. Winnipeg: Watson & Dwyer Publishing, 1989. 247 pp. \$14.95 PB 0-920486-30-4; \$27.50 HC 0-920486-34-7

This second book by Hugh Ross continues the personal account of his work as a fur trader and manager with the Hudson's Bay Company in western Canada from 1941 until his retirement.



Mr. Ross has used an intimate style that includes a wealth of names, dates, events and places to illustrate his story.

The book will have a limited place in schools, but is well worth reading for the glimpses it gives us of our recent past and that of the Hudson's Bay Company fur traders.

Recommended with reservations SENIOR YEARS

Senior, Hereward. THE LAST INVASION OF CANADA: THE FENIAN RAIDS, 1866-1870. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1991. 226 pp. \$29.95 HC 1-55002-085-4

The Fenians, a group of Irish-American revolutionaries who thought invading Canada would heip liberate Ireland, launched a series of raids between 1866 and 1870. Senior's book, though well-researched and written, would be of little use to students in a high school history class where so little attention is devoted to the Fenians. Recommended only to those who have a special interest in Canadian military history.

Recommended with reservations SENIOR YEARS

Swainson, Donald. SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: THE MAN AND THE POLITICIAN. (2nd ed.) Kingston: Quarry Press, 1989. 170 pp. \$12.95 PB 0-919627-29-3

This is the second and revised edition of this biography. Sometimes there is a lack of sufficient detail; for example, the Rebellion of 1837 is cited a number of times but the causes and events of this rebellion are not discussed at all. This brief biography covers a lot of ground at the expense of being thorough.

Not recommended SENIOR YEARS

Wernick, Morris. THE TIME TRAVELLER BOOK OF NEW FRANCE. Burlington: Durkin Hayes Publishing, 1990. 32 pp. \$12.95 HC 0-88625-263-6

This new book in the Time Traveller series provides

a wide smattering of information on New France. The use of captioned illustrations provides information easily to students studying New France. Some of the impact on the native people is shown. The focus on lifestyles clearly illustrates the French class system. Indexed.

Highly recommended MIDDLE YEARS

WORLD ISSUES TEACHER'S GUIDE. Judy Norget, editor. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991. 247 pp. \$30.00 PB 1-895411-00-9

See description under CANADIAN STUDIES - HISTORY

GUIDANCE

Elwin, Rosamund. ASHA'S NAME. Toronto: Women's Press, 1990. unp. \$5.95 PB 0-88961-143-2

See description under LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - PICTURE BOOKS

HEALTH

Marrifield, Margaret. COME SIT BY ME. Toronto: Women's Press, 1990. unp. \$6.95 PB 0-88961-141-6

Nicholas is sick and misses many days at school. When it is revealed that he has AIDS, parents react to their own fears by insisting their children not play with Nicholas.

Karen is the only child who continues to play with Nicholas. It is Karen's parents who call a meeting to discuss AIDS when they learn that, because Karen plays with Nicholas, some parents will not allow their children to play with Karen. The parents talk



and talk and learn about the HIV infection and AIDS. The next day everyone wants to sit and play with Nicholas.

This timely concern is dealt with in a compassionate manner and gives much information as to how you cannot get the disease. There are 3 information pages of questions and answers at the end of the story as well as a list of additional resources. Suitable for young children aged four to eight and their caregivers.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

HISTORY - BIOGRAPHY

Fryer, Mary Beacock. EMILY STOWE: DOCTOR AND SUFFRAGIST. [Canadian medical lives; no. 6] Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1990. 150 pp. \$17.95 HC 1-55002-084-6

See description under CANADIAN STUDIES - BIOGRAPHY

Swainson, Donald. SIR JOHN A MACDONALD: THE MAN AND THE POLITICIAN. (2nd ed.) Kingston: Quarry Press, 1989. 170 pp. \$12.95 PB 0-919627-29-3

See description under CANADIAN STUDIES - HISTORY

HISTORY - POLITICAL

Ross, Eila Hopper. CRY TO THE MOMENT. Burlington: Perfect Pages of Burlington, 1989. 424 pp. \$23.95 PB 1-895047-00-5

See description under CANADIAN STUDIES - GEOGRAPHY.

WORLD ISSUES TEACHER'S GUIDE. Judy Norget, editor. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991. 247 pp. \$30.00 PB 1-895411-00-9

See description under CANADIAN STUDIES - HISTORY

HISTORY - SOCAL

Daumont, Christine. UPPER CANADA VILLAGE
ON THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER. Belleville
: Mika Publishing Company, 1990. 96 pp.
\$11.95 PB 0-921341-40-7

See description under SOCIAL STUDIES

Kalman, Bobbie. THE GRISTMILL. [Historic communities] Mississauga: Crabtree Publishing, 1990. 32 pp. \$8.96 PB 0-86505-506-8; \$15.96 HC 0-86505-486-X

. HOME CRAFTS. [Historic communities] Mississauga: Crabtree Publishing, 1990. 32 pp. \$8.96 PB 0-86505-505-X; \$15.96 HC 0-86505-485-1

. THE KITCHEN. [Historic communities] Mississauga: Crabtree Publishing, 1990. 32 pp. \$8.96 PB 0-86505-504-1; \$15.96 HC 0-86505-484-3

. VISITING A VILLAGE. [Historic communities]. Mississauga: Crabtree Publishing, 1990. 32 pp. \$8.96 PB 0-86505-507-6; \$15.96 HC 0-86505-487-8

These titles are essential for teachers undertaking pioneer studies with early years/middle years students. Beautifully produced, they feature full colour photographs of live actors, fully costumed in a number of historical village settings. They are well-organized titles that progress logically and with plentiful headings and captions to assist the browser. Text is large print and very comfortable. Includes glossary, index and table of contents.

Highly recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS



Ross, Eila Hopper. CRY TO THE MOMENT. Burlington: Perfect Pages of Burlington, 1989. 424 pp. \$23.95 1-895047-00-5

See description under CANADIAN STUDIES - GEOGRAPHY

HOME ECONOMICS - FAMILY LIFE

Elwin, Rosamund. ASHA'S MUMS. Toronto: Women's Press, 1990. unp. \$5.95 PB 0-88961-143-2

See description under LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - PICTURE BOOKS

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Carrier, Roch. A HAPPY NEW YEAR'S DAY. Montreal: Tundra Books, 1991. \$14.95 HC 0-88776-267-0

See description under LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - PICTURE BOOKS

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - DRAMA

Mitchell, Ken. **THE SHIPBUILDER**. Saskatoon : Fifth House Publishers, 1990. 95 pp. \$10.95 PB 0-920079-67-9

Based on a true story of a Finnish homesteader who built a huge iron ship, the Sontianen, on his prairie farm, the play is a portrait of Tom Sukanen, an obsessed man who, through his antisocial and

fiercely independent behavior, turns his family and friends away. Although the play is not actionpacked and, therefore, might not have widespread appeal among today's teenagers, it could be used at the senior high level to demonstrate character development.

Recommended SENIOR YEARS

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - FICTION

Alderson, Sue Ann. CHAPTER ONE. Toronto: General Paperbacks, 1990. 159 pp. \$4.95 0-7736-7283-4

A juvenile novel by Sue Ann Alderson (of "Bonnie McSmithers" fame) carries a lot of promise and lives up to it! The themes of friendship and personal growth are managed adeptly by Alderson. In this tale a young heroine detaches herself from the immediacy of peer pressure, centers herself, and develops deeper standards for her developing relationships.

Highly recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Alexander, Wilma E. THE QUEEN'S SILVER. Toronto: General Paperbacks, 1990. 128 pp. \$4.95 PB 0-7736-7285-0

An easy-to-read, undemanding mystery focusing on the theft of the "Queen's Silver", a three-piece communion set given by Queen Anne to the Mohawk tribe for their loyalty to Britain during the American Revolution. During a summer visit to the Tyendinaga Reserve, eleven-year-old Jon Sinclair, son of an Ontario Provincial Police father and Mohawk mother, joins two new friends from the reserve in becoming sleuths and recovering the silver.

Recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Bell, William. ABSOLUTELY INVINCIBLE!



Toronto: General Paperbacks, 1991. 198 pp. \$5.95 PB 0-7736-7291-5

In this re-issue (former title: The cripples' club), four variously-handicapped high-school students band together to try to become independent and safe in a hostile setting.

Bell succeeds in creating plausible characters, situations, and solutions. Readers should gain a better understanding of those who are disadvantaged, and more broadly, of those who are simply different. As a bonus, they will be entertained and moved as well.

Recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Blakeslee, Mary. STAMPEDE: A LEMON STREET GANG ADVENTURE. Toronto: Overlea House, 1989. 143 pp. \$4.95 PB 0-7172-2580-1

The Lemon Street Gang, four pre-teen boys from Pinterville, Alberta, continue their sleuthing adventures in this easy-to-read mystery set during the Calgary Stampede. While three Lemon Streeters are visiting one of the boys' uncles, they become convinced that someone is sabotaging one of the rigs in the chuckwagon races, thereby jeopardizing its chances of winning the \$50,000 first prize. Consistent with the genre, the Gang, after some harrowing adventures, solves the "crime."

Recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Brooks, Martha. TWO MOONS IN AUGUST. Toronto: Groundwood Books/Douglas & McIntyre, 1991. 157 pp. \$14.95 HC 0-88899-123-1

In August of 1959, Sidonie, sixteen, her sister Roberta, nineteen, and their physician father are still dealing with unresolved emotions brought about by the death, a year before, of the family's mother and wife. Not yet willing to confront their feelings, the three have each adopted avoidance behaviours which come to isolate them from each other. Rich in setting and characterization, this moving coming of age novel was nominated for the 1991 Governor General's Literary Award.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Charles, Norma M. DARLENE'S SHADOW. Toronto: General Paperbacks, 1991. 101 pp. \$5.95 PB 0-7736-7295-8

Darlene is both frustrated and angry when she discovers her partner for the school camping trip will not be Tasha, her best friend, but Noy, a new girl from Cambodia. However, as the events of the trip unfold, she finds that acquiring a new friend, while sometimes requiring a great deal of effort, is at the same time, very worthwhile.

Recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Choyce, Lesley. **THE HUNGRY LIZARDS**. [Series 2000] Don Mills: Collier Macmillan Canada, 1990. 90 pp. \$5.50 PB 0-02-953936-6

A hi-low title in which a teen must make important life choices. Jeremy aka Germ, Drek and Al constitute a rock band, the Hungry Lizards. Their winning a battle of the bands competition means a four-night-per-week gig at the Dungeon, a Hull, Quebec bar, but the win also leads to a series of problems for Germ, only sixteen, as his school grades plummet and his father demands that he quit the band.

Recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Czernecki, Stafan. NINA'S TREASURES. Winnipeg: Hyperion Press, 1990. 56 pp. \$19.95 HC 0-920534-65-1

The pictures in this title are bright, colourful and patterned, providing a perfect echo to the Eastern European style of egg decorating. A note on the fly leaf provides more information. This title will embellish a variety of themes: hens, eggs, folk art, Ukrainian culture, and Easter. The warm, simply told story of a peasant woman and her hen becomes the miraculous tale of the origin of Psanka or decorated eggs.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS



Ellis, Sarah. PICK-UP STICKS. Toronto: Groundwood Books/Douglas & McIntyre, 1991. 124 pp. \$14.95 HC 0-88899-146-0

In describing the game of pick-up sticks, Polly, thirteen, says, "You pull out one stick and the balance shifts and the whole pattern changes." For Polly and her never-married-mother, Joan, the "stick" is the announcement that the Vancouver house in which they rent rooms has been sold. The search for new lodgings brings mother and daughter into conflict, but new understandings of each other ultimately emerge. A novel of character rather than plot.

Winner of the 1991 Governor General's Literary Award for English Language Juvenile Literature - text.

Recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Gaetz, Dayle. SPOILED ROTTEN. [Series 2000] Don Mills: Maxwell Macmillan Canada, 1991. \$5.50 PB 0-02-954009-7

A hi-lo title which combines an adventure story with an examination of the difficulties presented by a blended family. Jessica, fourteen, is displeased that her widowed father has decided to remarry. Unwilling to accept Patti as her new mother, Jessica is even more unhappy with stepsister Amy, twelve, whom a jealous Jessica labels "spoiled rotten". Understanding occurs as the two girls share a challenging hike into B.C.'s mountains and Amy has an accident.

Recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Godfrey, Martyn. IN THE TIME OF THE MONSTERS. [Series 2000, 3] Don Mills: Collier Macmillan Canada, 1989. 888 pp. \$5.95 0-02-953549-2

An exciting science fiction hi-lo title! The monsters are Eaters, werewolf-looking carnivores. Of a city population of three million humans, only 383 survived Before-End, and they live behind the Fence, an electric barrier to the light-blinded Eaters. The Ridders are those, like Cut and his girlfriend Sandy, who daily hunt the Eaters by flushing them out with fire. Good adventure as the ideas of the

young confront the old Ridders' traditional ways.

Series 2000 (3) teacher's guide, which includes Baby blues; Bull rider; Death wind; and In the time of the monsters, is available—\$3.75 PB 0-02-953525-5.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Gutteridge, Don. HOW THE WORLD BEGAN: A PARABLE OF 1812. [Southwestern Ontario fiction; #1' Time is a metaphor; 7] Goderich: Moonstone Press, 1991. 174 pp. \$12.95 PB 0-920259-34-0

This novel. set in southwestern Ontario during the War of 1812, tells the story of an Irish-French family from the viewpoint of the younger son Ti-Luc. It combines a vivid portrayal of pioneer life and the horror of war with an exciting tale of wilderness survival. Sometimes, though, the author does not provide enough information to make characters fully understandable to the reader; for example, is Ti-Luc developmentally delayed, shy or simply lacking in self-confidence? Although the use of violence may be defended as necessary to the development of the plot, the appropriateness of the use of obscene language is questionable.

Recommended with reservations SENIOR YEARS

Halvorson, Marilyn. **BULL RIDER**. [Series 2000] Don Mills: Collier Macmillan Canada, 1989. 92 pp. \$5.50 0-02-953547-6

The death of Jeff McQueen, champion rodeo bull rider, hangs over his son Layne, who longs to follow in his dad's footsteps. Layne secretly practices in a neighbour's arena until the day finally arrives when he must ride in public. This is a touching story of "becoming a man", when a teenager must face up to his own fears and the fears of a protective father.

Series 2000 (3) teacher's guide, which includes Baby blues; Bull rider; Death wind; and In the time of the monsters, is available—\$3.75 PB 0-02-953525-5.

Highly recommended MIDDLE YEARS



Heneghan, James. THE CASE OF THE MARMALADE CAT. Richmond Hill: Scholastic Canada, 1991. 86 pp. \$3.95 PB 0-590-73824-0

A shorter novel in the detective genre, The case of the marmalade cat is a stylish mystery. Its twelve brief chapters proceed with just a hint of the supernatural, a solid sense of humour, and an expressive use of language. There is lots of dialogue from the three main characters—two girls and one boy who comprise the detective agency.

Carol Wakefield's attractive cover works very well to attract readership.

Recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Ibbitson, John. **THE BIG STORY**. [Series 2000] Don Mills: Collier Macmillan Canada, 1990. 94 pp. \$5.50 PB 0-02-953983-8

A hi-lo title on the industry vs environment theme. Andy Hennessey, seventeen, aspiring reporter, finds his part-time copy person job at The Pearson Courier limits him to dealing with mundane tasks like the switchboard and message deliveries. A phone tip about the community's biggest employer, Strickland Paints, being an industrial polluter, turns him into an amateur investigative reporter. Although his initial efforts get him fired and beaten up, Andy finally gets his "big story".

Recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Ibbitson, John. **STARCROSSER**. [Series 2000] Don Mills: Collier Macmillan Canada, 1990. 88 pp. \$5.50 PB 0-02-953935-8

Starcrosser is the name Northern Ontario's Marshall Hampton, fourteen, earns by "winning" a space war. After rescuing an alien, Mell, from his exploding spaceship, Marshall protects him from the human looking, warlike Drakonians. Taken to the Altonian system, Marshall "teaches" the peaceful inhabitants how to conduct war. Amusingly, rock music on Marshall's Walkman becomes the ultimate weapon against the Drakonians. Science fiction of action, rather than theme, Starcrosser is a high interest-low vocabulary title.

Recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

JUMBO GUMBO: SONGS, POEMS AND STORIES FOR CHILDREN. Wenda McArthur and Geoffrey Ursell, editors. Regina: Coteau Books, 1989. 135 pp. \$10.95 cerlox bound 0-919926-99-1

Jumbo Gumbo is a potpourri of poems, songs and stories on a number of themes in a variety of styles. Including works from Prairie writers, this collection holds promise. A real variety pack that's easy to use.

Recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Kavanagh, Ed. AMANDA GREENLEAF AND THE BOY MAGICIAN. Goderich: Moonstone Press, 1991. 72 pp. \$8.95 PB 0-920259-33-2

Ed Kavanagh has done it again! He has portrayed another great story of Amanda Greenleaf and her friend Clea, the dragonfly. Together, and with the help of the boy magician, they save the Blue Planet from war. An enjoyable story for grade three to four, enlivened by Janice Udell's fine illustrations in black and white.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Kessler, Deirdre. **BIGFOOT SABOTAGE**. Charlottetown: Ragweed Press, 1991. 139 pp. \$6.95 PB 0-921556-19-5

Maya and Jake Longhorne discover sasquatches through the initially confusing technique of dream flight. At the same time, a public meeting is called about a logging initiative in the area. At the meeting the author shifts her focus from sasquatches to the environment. Later her poorly developed characters behave inconsistently forgetting their nagging guilt for sabotaging the logging equipment and happily participating in a family project. There is also a proof reading error—the last 2 lines of page 123 are repeated on page 124.

Not recommended MIDDLE YEARS



Korman, Gordon. MACDONALD HALL GOES HOLLYWOOD. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1991. 217 pp. \$14.95 HC 0-590-43940-5

MacDonald Hall fans will welcome the sixth hilarious novel to feature Bruno Walton and Boots O'Neal. When an American film crew utilizes MacDonald Hall as the setting for Academy Blues, Bruno is determined to appear in the film as an extra. His repeated attempts to be "on camera" bring him into humorous conflict with the film's director and the Headmaster. Two equally funny subplots involve the movie's teen star, heart-throb Jordie Jones.

Highly recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Kropp, Paul. BABY BLUES. [Series 2000] Don Mills: Collier Macmillan Canada, 1989. 82 pp. \$5.50 PB 0-02-953546-8

It can't happen to me! Teenagers who experiment with sex and do not bother to take preventive measures against becoming pregnant are playing "Russian Roulette" with their lives. Teenage boys and girls will be moved by the story of Tammy and Aaron, and how their "love" was overcome by an unplanned pregnancy. The diary style lends itself well to this story of young lives torn apart by indiscretions. Tammy says it all... "Please, Diary, I just want to be happy again. That's all."

Series 2000 (3) teacher's guide, which includes Baby blues; Bull rider; Death wind; and In the time of the monsters, is available--\$3.75 PB 0-02-953525-5.

Highly recommended SENIOR YEARS

Kropp, Paul. SPLIT UP. [Series Canada, 8] Don Mills: Collier Macmillan Canada, 1989. 89 pp. \$6.50 PB 0-02-953929-3

A hi-lo title about the emotional aftermath of marital break-up. When the parents of Shelley McCullough, fourteen, and Brad, seven, announce their separation, both children react negatively. Brad gets into trouble at school while Shelley's grades drop. Learning that her father has a girlfriend, Shelley cuts herself off from him and loses herself in dance. With the help of friend Jilly, also from a divorced

home, Shelley comes to a gradual understanding of the situation.

Recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Kropp, Paul. THE VICTIM WAS ME. [Series 2000] Don Mills: Maxwell Macmillan Canada, 1991. 82 pp. \$5.50 PB 0-02-954008-9

Date rape! Teenage boys and girls will be moved by the theme of this shocking story. Although fictionalized, this dramatic presentation of an all-tooreal teenage problem shows how important it is that people respect each other. Jenny discovers that communicating with friends and family helps her to face the truth and lay charges for the heinous attack perpetrated by a "friend."

Recommended SENIOR YEARS

Kropp, Paul. WE BOTH HAVE SCARS. [Series 2000] Don Mills: Collier Macmillan Canada, 1990. 92 pp. \$5.50 PB 0-02-953984-6

A hi-lo title focusing on psychological scars. Dinh, seventeen, in Canada only eight months, has become the target for rich bully Brandon Turkoff's racial taunts. A detention assignment causes the pair to interview each other, an experience revealing Dinh's family's flight from Cambodia after the Khmer Rouge killed Dinh's father, plus the shortcomings of Brandon's parents. A climactic mountainside episode uncovers the remainder of the boys' stories and discloses that not all scars are external.

Recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

McNicoll, Sylvia. JUMP START. [Series 2000] Don Mills: Collier Macmillan Canada, 1989. 88 p. \$6.50 PB 0-02-953928-5

A hi-lo title focusing on illiteracy. Shari, fifteen, has managed to keep her inability to read a secret from everyone by developing coping strategies which mask her problem. Shari wants to become a mechanic, but her father will only permit her to take an auto mechanics course if her failing English grades improves. Desperate, Shari resorts to



cheating and is caught, but the outcome is positive as Shari's problem is diagnosed and she receives help.

Recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Mayer, Jeni. THE MYSTERY OF THE TURTLE LAKE MONSTER. Saskatoon: Thistledown Press, 1990. 126 pp. \$7.00 PB 0-920633-68-4

The mystery is effectively introduced in a short prologue. Justin Daniels and his friends snoop and spy in typical twelve-year-old sleuth fashion without adult assistance in the face of threatening letters and serious "accidents." The "monster" is a hoax perpetrated by hotel owners to salvage their investment. Although potentially a good read, this book does not succeed: irrelevant details clutter and slow the story, characters are not convincing.

Not recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Montgomery, Lucy Maud. AMONG THE SHADOWS: TALES FROM THE DARKER SIDE. Rea Wilmshurst, editor. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1990. 310 pp. \$24.95 HC 0-7710-6155-2

In contrast to the usual writings of well-known author, L.M. Montgomery, which portray the world in sweetness and light, Among the shadows reveals darkness and depths, possibly a throw-back to the author's unhappy childhood and repressed Such weaknesses as drunkenness, adolescence. thievery, embezzlement and adultery are presented sincerely and compassionately throughout the nineteen rediscovered tales that compose this third volume of Montgomery's edited works. Many of the themes are evidence of early twentieth century obsessions from temperance in Martyrdom of Estella to the supernatural in The house party at Smokey Island. In Some fools and a saint, the supernatural and the darker side of human nature are combined to make an exciting tale. These stories could be used in any middle/senior high school provided a little background and explanation of the times are given first.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Nagler, Eric. ERIC NAGLER'S GROANERS. Cambridge: Whitman Golden, 1990. \$3.95 PB 0-920903-93-2

. ERIC NAGLER'S JOKE BOOK. Cambridge: Whitman Golden, 1990. \$3.95 PB 0-920903-95-9

These two little books share the same premise--that children will never tire of good jokes. Both books combine old chestnuts with newer jokes that will delight young readers. These are sturdy books for paperbacks, and could be used in libraries. Each volume ends with a list of daffy definitions which the author urges readers to turn into jokes themselves.

Recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

O'Keeffe, Frank. SCHOOL STINKS. Toronto: General Paperbacks, 1991. 132 pp. \$5.95 0-7736-7295-8

When the mill shuts down and the school board threatens to close the school, three resourceful students set out to find a solution to the problem. With the help of clues gleaned from a book on local history and an elderly, eccentric Calgary millionaire, they manage to do just that.

This fast-paced novel will appeal to middle years readers.

Recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Prentice, Jim. FLY INTO DANGER. [Keystone adventure; 2] Winnipeg: Hyperion Press, 1990. 119 pp. \$4.95 PB 0-920534-67-8

Brad, Ben and Ben's cousin, Sonny, plan a fishing trip out of Churchill but are sidetracked by bringing counterfeiters to justice. The vocabulary level and age of the protagonists, points to an intended audience of grade eight to ten students. However, in the Hardy boys tradition, this predictable mystery suffers from didactic interludes designed to teach about the North, and stilted, wooden conversation, which will limit its appeal to a minuscule group of less critical, younger mystery fans.

Not recommended



MIDDLE YEARS

Prentice, Jim. **THE MYSTERIOUS DISK**. [Keystone adventure; 1] Winnipeg: Hyperion Press, 1989. 98 pp. \$4.95 PB 0-920534-69-4

The discovery of a computer disk containing the plans for a top-secret military laser weapon throws Brad and Ben into the eerie world of espionage. In spite of some ludicrous situations (two teenagers come close to building a copy of the secret weapon? the military demonstrates their classified research to teenage civilians?) the realistic conversation and fast pace of this mystery/adventure will appeal to its intended audience: grades 7-9 mystery fans.

Recommended with reservations MIDDLE YEARS

Prentice, Jim. SUNKEN TREASURE. [Keystone adventure; 3] Winnipeg: Hyperion Press, 1990. 128 pp. \$4.95 PB 0-920534-71-6

In this third in the Keystone adventure series, Brad and Ben team up with their fathers to search for lost gold in a northern Manitoba lake. The inclusion of both standard and imperial measures is irritating, as is the author's tendency to tell instead of show. However, realistic flying, diving and camping scenes will draw grades 7-9 students to this traditional mystery/adventure.

Recommended with reservations MIDDLE YEARS

Price, Moe. THE INCREDIBLE MUNGWORT QUEST. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1990. 125 pp. \$9.95 PB 0-7710-7154-X

Mistress Melinda, the pleasant little old witch, has a serious problem. The only solution is to send Louise and Danny on a dangerous mission to the In-Between World: the buffer zone between Earth and the Beyond, inhabited by hosts of evil creatures.

Though slow moving in the beginning, there is chilling suspense and warm humour in the story of Melinda, her talking cat, the two children, and the evil witch, Lizardia.

Recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Sadiq, Nazneen. LUCY. [A Degrassi book; 15] Toronto: James Lorimer & Company, 1989. 171 pp. \$4.95 PB 1-55028-238-7; \$16.95 HC 1-55028-239-5

Lucy is unhappy: her parents neglect her; her friends don't understand her; school is boring and hard. Her answer: run away, just for a little while, to a Caribbean paradise. With her friends' help, no one will know.

Of course, it leads to trouble, and of course, there's a positive and slightly open-ended resolution.

Ho-hum. The book is okay, but it is also so routine and predictable that a library should be able to find something better.

Not recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Seligman, Lynn. WARNER, DON'T FORGET. Richmond Hill: Scholastic-TAB Publications, 1989. 22 pp. \$4.95 PB 0-590-73143-2

Warner's mother is always reminding him of things. One day, with all the confidence of a growing six-year-old, Warner sets out on a class trip to the zoo. It isn't until the end of the day that he realizes that the many "strangers" who have been giving him advice along the way have all been his mother in various disguises.

This appealing story dedicated, in part, "to all anxious parents" has been beautifully illustrated by Linda Hendry.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Staunton, Ted. MISS FISHLEY AFLOAT.
Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1990. unp. \$11.95
HC 1-55074-002-4

Ted Staunton's latest title is a large format picture book, employing language more sophisticated than in his novels. Staunton has provided us with another ready-witted heroine with formidable brains and courage. This tale within a tale is related by Miss Fishley herself while the reader observes that former foes are now somewhat tame neighbours. Jaunty illustrations have been provided by Eric Parker.



Recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Stephenson, Anne. THE MYSTERIOUS MR. MOON. Toronto: General Paperbacks, 1990. 111 pp. \$4.95 PB 0-7736-7284-2

A strange man with suspicious habits comes to stay at the Old Coach Inn. The owner's children, Peter and Allison, who are determined to discover the secret truth about Mr. Moon, follow him, discovering some very strange behaviours. The story reads smoothly to its climax, where the author leads us to a very enjoyable ending.

Recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Taylor, Cora. **JULIE'S SECRET**. Saskatoon: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1991. 117 pp. \$9.95 PB 0-88833-343-9

In Cora Taylor's sequel to her bestseller Julie, the plot hinges less on the question of the existence of ESP, and more on its handling. A natural flowering of the seeds which were sown in Julie, this novel provides a well-drawn portrait of character setting, and action that can stand on its own. In a sense, even more satisfying that Julie because of its broader scope.

Highly recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Walsh, Ann. THE GHOST OF SODA CREEK. Victoria: Press Porcepic, 1990. 170 pp. \$7.95 PB 0-88878-292-6

Following the death of her mother, sixteen-year-old Kelly and her father move to Soda Creek. A pale toddler appears to Kelly and then to some of the estranged inhabitants. The ghost's plight becomes more desperate drawing Kelly to David, a university student, and the residents to one another. An outsider witch resolves the problem. A well-paced and written story populated with eccentric yet believable characters. A hit with Grade 6.

Recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Ward, Helen. THE MOONRAT AND THE WHITE CIRCLE. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1990. unp. \$14.95 HC 0-7710-8806-X

This is a rather allegorical fantasy about a pirate whose greed leads him to endanger the life of a rare creature, his crew and himself.

The illustrations and colourful, clean and fanciful. The print is large.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Weir, Joan. SECRET BALLOT. Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1991. 117 pp. \$3.95 PB 0-920775-74-8

A highly predictable novel based on characters from the CBC television series, Northwood. Jennifer is convinced by her friends to run for student council vice-president. She goes through the normal campaign ordeals to last minute success. Although not a literary masterpiece, this book, like those based on the Degrassi T.V. series, will appeal to reluctant readers.

Recommended with reservations MIDDLE YEARS

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE FOLKTALES AND LEGENDS

Lawson, Julie. THE SAND SIFTER. Victoria: Press Porcépic, 1990. 53 pp. \$6.95 PB 0-88878-288-8

The "sand sifter" is a magical being who mesmerizes the young children who discover him with his wondrous tales and talk of sand sifting, memories and dreams. Within this short novel, he retells the Haida creation myth as well as the Japanese folktale of Urashima. His retellings are personal and colourful. The few illustrations are well-composed adding a creative, mysterious component to the story. Any age group studying "storytelling" or "legends" might enjoy this title.



Recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Taylor, C.J. THE GHOST AND LONE WARRIOR. Montreal, Tundra Books, 1991. unp. \$12.95 HC 0-88776-263-8

By the author/artist of How Two-feather was saved from loneliness, this title has a similar "look" with the same breathtakingly rich paintings. The ghost and lone warrior is a retelling of the legend "The lone warrior and the skeleton" from Tipi tales of the American Indian by D. Brown. A note at the back gives further information about the Arapaho Indian tribe who were the great buffalo hunters of the Plains. In this traditional tale, a warrior is tested and found strong enough to become leader to his people. Courage, endurance, survival and the importance of the buffalo are all here in this exciting, sometimes frightening, narrative.

Highly recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Zola, Meguido. NOODLE, NITWIT, NUMSKULL. [Silhouette folktales] Kingston: Quarry Press, 1990. unp. \$7.95 PB 0-919627-89-7; \$12.95 HC 0-919627-87-0

See description under LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - PICTURE BOOKS

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE LANGUAGE ARTS (TEACHING)

Chow, Mayling et al. WHOLE LANGUAGE: PRACTICAL IDEAS. [The Pippin teacher's library; 1] Markham: Pippin Publishing, 1991. 108 pp. \$11.95 PB 0-88751-032-9

This sourcebook for teachers offers ideas for various aspects of whole language teaching, including shared and independent reading and writing suggestions. The authors cite research on accountability in the whole language classroom and suggest evaluation strategies. A useful list of references is included.

Highly recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Gutteridge, Don. INCREDIBLE JOURNEYS: NEW APPROACHES TO THE NOVEL: A HANDBOOK FOR TEACHERS. (rev. ed.) London: The Althouse Press, 1990. 79 pp. \$7.95 PB 0-920354-28-9

Although designed to promote use of specific study guides and resource kits prepared by the author, practical suggestions for class and small group novel study are provided. The approach of triple reading—for pleasure, for sense of accumulating patterns and finally to review the whole story—may not find favour currently. However, ideas for literature journal responses and the challenge to integrate, not merely extend, the novel through other language activities are worthwhile.

Recommended with reservations MIDDLE YEARS

Innes, Marie. ENJOYING LANGUAGE: HELPING CHILDREN READ AND WRITE. Calgary: Braun and Braun Educational Enterprises, 1990. 98 pp. \$14.00 PB 0-9690605-7-2

The author has kept the price down on this one by painstakingly preparing her own graphic illustrations. Though this low budget approach means a less glamorous appearance, it does make this book a viable addition to the professional library. Its clear overview of whole language activities is useful both to the teacher and parents aiming to learn more about whole language and the writing process.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Scott, Ruth. THE STUDENT EDITOR'S GUIDE TO WORDS. Toronto: Gage Educational Publishing, 1991. 229 pp. \$10.95 PB 0-7715-1578-2

This title offers a great variety of angles from which to increase one's command of the English language, both form and content. To a degree, it is the old traditional English curriculum condensed into a book. But, when it offers spelling strategies, it



comes at the reader from all directions. While it touches such content-related word issues as jargon, word origin, idioms, homophones and more, its main body is a thorough going over of the types of information necessary to good form (spelling) and it provides a large number of very useful, categorized word lists.

Highly recommended MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Zarry, Leonard. LITERACY THROUGH WHOLE LANGUAGE. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991. 202 pp. \$16.95 PB 1-895411-33-5

Here is a title on the basics of whole language in a nice comfortable print format and plain, wellorganized writing style that would be useful guidance to parents, teachers and student teachers.

Both basic principles and strategies for implementation are dealt with in well-balanced fashion. The whole language perspective is elucidated touching on a myriad of practical points, never bogging. There is a simple confidence in the author's style that is appealing.

Several useful appendices list a variety of activities and resources for implementing "whole language". Highly recommended as an introduction to, a refresher course in, or simply to help organize the mind of anyone working in language activities from N-7.

Highly recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - PICTURE BOOKS

Bedard, Michael. THE NIGHTINGALE. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 1991. unp. \$16.95 HC 0-19-540800-4

In a telling both dramatic and detailed, Michael Bedard "sounds the note" of this folktale, bringing out all of its truths: the importance of freedom, the value of inner beauty over artifice, the humble over the arrogant and the healing power of "real" music. And, if Bedard's lyrical words are like music to the ears, so it must be said that Ricci's paintings are highly artistic interpretations--all done in perfect harmony to the details and embellishments of the text as well as perfectly attuned to the Ancient Chinese setting. "Bravo!" and "Encore!" to this great literary team.

Highly recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Bourgeois, Paulette. CANADIAN GARBAGE COLLECTORS. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. unp. \$11.95 HC 1-55074-040-7

Factual details presented in a story form combined with truly appealing illustrations by Kim LaFave will peak interest in occupations—in this case, garbage collectors. This book will be read for pleasure, but relevant information included about reducing, reusing, and recycling make it a valuable addition for environmental studies as well. This is one volume of the series "In my neighbourhood".

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Brooks, Ben. LEMONADE PARADE. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. unp. \$11.95 HC 1-55074-009-1

Readers share in dad's secret as he helps three young bored frustrated lemonade sales people achieve success. Dressing up as everything from miner to exhausted vacuum-cleaner salesman, he returns until all is sold. Joyfully the children share their plans for spending the proceeds. The suggestion to purchase more lemonade is sure to evoke laughter. Humorous full-page watercolours successfully capture the mood and subtle waths in this entertaining book.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Carrier Roch. **THE BOXING CHAMPION**. Montreal: Tundra Books, 1991. \$6.95 PB 0-88776-257-3; \$14.95 HC 0-88776-249-2

Roch Carrier - writer, Sheldon Cohen - illustrator,



Shei' Fischman - translator. Here is the team that gave us the popular classic, The hockey sweater. Their standards have not been lowered for this sequel in which Roch nurses an ambition to become the town's boxing champion (and sends away for body building equipment). The results are hilarious. Illustrations with imaginative detail and historical cultural interest will be poured over again and again. A must buy.

Highly recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Carrier, Roch. A HAPPY NEW YEAR'S DAY. Montreal: Tundra Books, 1991. unp. \$14.95 HC 0-88776-267-0

Roch Carrier (of The hockey sweater fame) describes the wonderful traditions that his family enjoyed each New Year's day when he was growing up fifty years ago in Sainte-Justine, a small Quebec town: the celebrations included sharing a big meal, exchanging gifts, and dancing exuberantly. Students will love to compare today's customs with Roch's. The folk-art illustrations of Gilles Pelletier are perfectly matched to the tale. They are child-like, yet strangely sophisticated.

A finalist for the 1991 Governor General's Literary Award.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Chislett, Gail. MELINDA'S NO'S COLD. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1991. unp. \$4.95 PB 1-55037-198-3; \$14.95 HC 1-55037-196-7

Perfect Melinda Sweeting does not feel well so a doctor is summoned who uses a "no-meter" to tell that at "100-No" she has a "No's cold". With proper care Melinda recovers overnight but sister Cynthia catches her "flew". Overworked word play causes this minimal plot story of Victorian girls to fail. The only redeeming feature of this book is the colourful expressive illustrative style, reminiscent of Marie Louise Gay.

Not recommended EARLY YEARS

Creighton, Jill. AMANDA'S BOOK. Toronto:

Annick Press, 1991. unp. \$5.95 PB 1-55037-182-7; \$15.95 HC 1-55037-185-1

A girl named Amanda likes cutting out pictures to put in her new scrapbook. The story then moves into the realm of fantasy as she cuts out real objects like chairs and puts them in. Later Amanda and her cat enter the scrapbook world also. The illustrations are excellent, but the story fails to convince. The transition from the real to the fantasy world is too jarring and the reader does not willingly believe.

Recommended with reservations EARLY YEARS

Creighton, Jill. THE WEAVER'S HORSE.
Toronto: Annick Press, 1991. unp. \$5.95 PB
1-55037-178-9; \$15.95 HC 1-55037-181-9

Lord Henry returns from war to discover that his brother has taken over his castle and sold his beloved horse, Lily. Henry goes to work weaving tapestries to earn enough to search for and recover the horse. It is through the weavings, created with passion and emotion that he finds and then loses her again, before the tale ends happily.

Rich, warm illustrations in acrylic displayed in arched frames provide a wealth of information about the plot and characters in this fanciful tale.

Highly recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Czernicki, Stefan. **BEAR IN THE SKY**. Winnipeg: Hyperion Press, 1990. 64 pp. \$19.95 HC 0-920534-63-5

Bear in the sky is the second collaborative effort for this writing team. It is quite differently illustrated than their first book, but the illustrations that accompany the story will be enjoyed by most children. They have created a charming story about a bear that purports to explain the presence of the Big Dipper in the sky. Primary children who heard the story were swept up by it and listened attentively. The illustrations kept them involved with the story.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS



Edwards, Frank B. MELODY MOONER STAYED UP ALL NIGHT. Newburgh: Bungalo Books, 1991. unp. \$4.95 PB 0-921285-01-9; \$14.95 HC 0-921285-03-5

A new addition to the Bungalo book series with Melody Mooner as the child who refuses to go to bed. As each family member tries to get Melody to go to bed she has an excuse to stay up. A watch showing each hour is pictured throughout the story. Melody is still up at midnight counting the stars when she is frightened by animal sounds and decides it is time to go to sleep--with mom and dad!

This is one of those books you don't need to have forever--just borrow it from your library, read it once and return.

Very simple text for younger children.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Elwin, Rosamund. ASHA'S MUMS. Toronto: Women's Press, 1990. unp. \$5.95 PB 0-88961-143-2

This is a book that challenges established thinking. Our society and our schools may reflect a very conservative view of families, at a time when life experiences are presenting children with many exceptions.

The premise of this book is that a child can have two moms. The authors do not indicate clearly how this is so, but leave the story open to the interpretation of the reader.

This book could be very helpful to school counsellors who work with children living in non-traditional family settings, but perhaps inappropriate at this time to place in school libraries.

Recommended with reservations EARLY YEARS

Fernandes, Kim. **ZEBO AND THE DIRTY PLANET**. Toronto: Annick Press, 1991. unp. \$4.95 PB 1-55037-180-0; \$14.95 HC 1-55037-183-5

Author/illustrator Kim Fernandes voices her concern for the animals of the world in this story which she has dedicated "to all creatures, great and small, who share the fragile planet earth".

Zebo, an alien being, attempts to teach the people on earth a lesson by kidnapping all the animals. He promises to return them only when the inhabitants learn to take better care of their planet.

Vivid three dimensional illustrations outshine a somewhat unimaginative text.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Greve, Andreas. CHRISTOPHER'S DREAM CAR. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1991. unp. \$5.95 PB 1-55037-166-5; \$15.95 HC 1-55037-169-X

Christopher loves cars but especially the decrepit van at his grandparents. It is a dream car that whisks him and his grandmother's cat on imaginative adventures in remote towns but always returns them in time for dinner. Unfortunately, this delightful story to which many children could relate is poorly interpreted in crude washed-out watercolour paintings that fail to capture the excitement of the foreign town and to convey the transitions between real and imaginary worlds.

Not recommended EARLY YEARS

Harris, Dorothy Joan. **RUMPELSTILTSKIN.**Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 1991. unp. \$16.95 HC 0-19-540766-0

This lovely retelling of Rumpelstiltskin is perfectly complemented by Regolo Ricci's magnificent medieval period illustrations. Not only gold into straw but also gold as border and other splendid embellishments!

In this version of the story, the boastfulness of the young woman's father is emphasized; however, he gets a chance to make up for it when his daughter enlists his help in discovering Rumpelstiltskin's name at the 11th hour.

A very fine telling of a favourite folktale.

Recommended EARLY YEARS



Harrison, Ted. THE BLUE RAVEN. Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, 1989. unp. \$16.95 HC 0-7715-9288-4

See description under NATIVE STUDIES - FICTION

Hutchins, H.J. A CAT OF ARTIMUS PRIDE. [Annick young novels] Willowdale: Annick Press, 1991. 95 pp. \$5.95 PB 1-55037-199-1

A talking cat! A buried treasure! Bullies! And a competition for tickets to Funtastic Park! The author successfully weaves them all into an entertaining believable story. Resourceful Claire and determined little Amy persevere in helping an arrogant 100-year-old cat, Cortez, recover a treasure buried near a large tree in the bully's yard but at the cost of the prize coveted by Claire. Good characterization and fast-paced plot will make this book appealing.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Hutchins, H.J. KATIE'S BABBLING BROTHER. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1991. unp. \$4.95 PB 1-55037-156-8; \$14.95 HC 1-55037-153-3

Elements of realism and magic make for an attractive story of a young girl learning to cope with her baby brother's continuous babbling. In the process, she shares a closeness to her mother, from whom she learns that baby Norman will outgrow the babbling as soon as he begins to talk! Charming illustrations by Ruth Ohi.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Hutchinson, Charlotte. MR. SWEETUMS WEARS PINK. Charlottetown: Ragweed Press, 1991. unp. \$5.95 PB 0-921556-18-7

Three little sisters mortify their cat, Mr. Sweetums, by dressing him up in frilly pink outfits and parading him outside in front of the other neighbourhood felines. How embarrassing! This very well written story is great for reading out loud. The illustrations add humour, and the surprise ending is delightfully

imaginative. This is Charlotte Hutchinson's first book and hopefully she'll write many more.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Jam, Teddy. DR. KISS SAYS YES. Toronto: Groundwood Books/Douglas & McIntyre, 1991. unp. \$13.95 HC 0-88899-141-X

A lovely and enchanting fantasy beautifully illustrated in a style reminiscent of heraldry. Perfect fare for a bedtime story or a very private read to take a child on a trip to wonderland. Doctor Kiss is a young girl who makes a most unusual journey to a medieval world after her parents put her to bed at night. As her name implies, she plays the role of healer.

Something in the way the narrative offers a door to another reality, the way that it soothingly says "yes" to innocence and fantasy reminds me of the Zoom series by Tim Wynne-Jones.

Winner 1991 English-language Governor General's Literary Award. Children's Literature - Illustration.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Johnson, Odette. ONE PRICKLY PORCUPINE. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 1991. unp. \$14.95 HC 0-19-540834-9

A regular riot of delightful colour, this plasticine art counting book will be a smash hit. There is so much to observe in the text and illustrations. Joyful, allite text accompanies the succession of creatures. The story which ties all of the sequences and glorious details together centres on the gathering for the giant's birthday. All the creatures are shown in relation to "one grinning gleeful giant with lots to celebrate". Beautifully done!

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Kessler, Deirdre. LENA AND THE WHALE. Charlottetown: Ragweed Press, 1991. unp. \$5.95 PB 0-921556-13-6

This lovely story centres on a young girl who has a



special love and healing power for wildlife. One day, her friend Rawkster, the orphaned crow whom she had saved as a baby, awakens her from her favourite dream of being a girl who is also a whale. Rawkster leads her to a place where a humpback whale has been beached. Lena cares for the whale and enlists the help of some humans in order to return the whale to the water. An excellent story for bringing out a vital theme.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Kideckel, Marsha. **BEAR DID IT!** Goderich: Moonstone Press, 1991. unp. \$6.95 PB 0-920259-35-9

Here is a delightful story about a mother-daughter relationship. Lisa tells the story about the day she thought she'd be clever and blame all her mistakes on her teddy bear. Mama proves to be very "with it" when she tricks her daughter into telling the truth. Illustrations add zesty fun with a teddy bear who shows emotions quite clearly. The last scene shows him with great big wink as Lisa shares her ice cream cone with him. Light, perky fare.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

THE LIDS CAN PRESS FRENCH & ENGLISH WORD BOOK. Katherine Farris, editor. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. 48 pp. \$12.95 HC 1-55074-022-9

This ambitious book is not just a picture word list; rather the words are integrated into a theme drawn as a two-page scene. The twenty-one themes are so packed with information that adults will feel overwhelmed, never mind the intended audience. Articles preceding French words are a requirement in this book, which makes it a find; however, the ambitiousness falters with the translation of "twins" as "des junelles" which are female twins only--the male equivalent--"des juneaux" is not mentioned. An English word list with accompanying page numbers is included, but the missing French list should be required.

Recommended with reservations EARLY YEARS

King, Bob. SITTING ON THE FARM. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. unp. \$11.95 HC 1-55074-037-7

This whimsical repetitive song, which is also perfect to chant, begins with a girl sitting on a farm with a bug on her knee that won't get off, "no siree". Friend frog is called and "MUNCH, MUNCH, MUNCH. Now there is a frog sitting on her. Progressively larger friends are called until she is stuck with a bear on her knee. The text is perfectly complemented by large colourful, humorous illustrations that burst through simple line borders.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Kovalski, Maryann. FRANK AND ZELDA. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1990. unp. \$13.95 HC 0-921103-98-0

Whimsical, yet descriptive, illustrations invite children to share the reactions of the characters to the ups and downs of their fortunes. With a text that is suitable for reading aloud, this title makes an interesting addition to a wishing theme. Particularly suited to the early years where the combination of simple plot and off-beat humour is so well appreciated.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Lemieux, Michele. PETER AND THE WOLF. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. unp. \$14.95 HC 1-55074-011-3

The Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev wrote the musical Peter and the wolf to introduce children to the orchestra by having each character in the story represented by an instrument.

The story, about a brave and clever boy who comes up with a plan to catch a hungry wolf who comes out of the forest, is simply and authentically illustrated with styles of the turn of the century Russia in which the story takes place.

Many books have been written which do a fine job of introducing readers to this classic story but few match the rich, dramatic illustrations of this version which was among the finalists for the 1991 Governor General's Literary Award (Illustration).



Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

McGee, Barbara. **COUNTING SHEEP**. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1991. \$4.95 PB 1-55037-160-6; \$12.95 HC 1-55037-157-6

Trying out his grandma's prescription for sleep, a youngster is visited by a bunch of fun-loving sheep who take him out to play and play and play! As soon as Edward yawns, they all run back to bed to sleep. Whimsically illustrated by the author, this brief fantasy fits well with the pre-school imagination and sense of fun.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Marton, Jirina. FLCWERS FOR MOM. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1991. unp. \$5.95 PB 1-55037-158-4; \$15.95 HC 1-55037-155-X

Children will enjoy this story of a young boy named Jirka aiming to please his mother with a hand-picked bouquet of flowers. His way home to deliver the flowers proves quite an adventure enlivened by many chances to help others, especially by sharing from the bouquet. Jirka's biggest challenge is a group of bullies from whom he successfully remains disentangled until the ending where he is safe in the bosom of his family.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Morgan, Allen. BRENDON AND THE WOLVES. Toronto: Oasis Press, 1991. unp. \$6.95 PB 1-895092-01-9

Allen Morgan, famous for fantastical humour in such stories as the Matthew titles and Christopher and the dream dragon, now offers a haunting tale with elements of folklore and fantasy. The themes of change and time weave in and out of this narrative involving a boy's transformation into a wolf. As unusual as that may sound, there is a subtlety that carries the story. Well-written and illustrated, it will touch many hearts.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Morgan, Allen. **THE MAGIC HOCKEY SKATES**. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 1991. unp. \$7.95 PB 0-19-540851-9; \$14.95 HC 0-19-540823-3

Morgan and Martchenko, the famed picture book partnership of the marvellous Matthew series have combined efforts again for this larger format picture book. At the outset, young Joey is disappointed when his father opts to buy him second hand skates instead of new ones. By the end of the story, he has proven himself as a hockey player to his brother, his brother's friends and himself, as well as saved the day for his brother's hockey team! The spark that sets fire to Joey's desire to excel at hockey comes from a salesperson who tells Joey about the skates' magical powers (just rub them and make a wish-three new wishes for each new owner). Second-hand is a bit of alright!

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Munsch, Robert. SHOW-AND-TELL. [Munsch for kids]. Toronto: Annick Press, 1991. unp. \$4.95 PB 1-55037-197-5; \$14.95 HC 1-55037-195-9

Everything you've come to expect from Munsch and Martchenko--more experiences close to the hearts of young children. This time, it's a new baby sister who rides to school for "show-and-tell" in a knapsack and a doctor with a really long needle. The baby's reaction to the ride is the same as the principal's when he sees the needle--"WAAA, WAAA, WAAA". Martchenko's colourful, expressive characters complement the zany plot.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Neudecker, Joan. MAX AND KATY. Victoria: Porcepic Books, 1991. unp. \$14.95 HC 0-88878-295-0

This calm tale of a girl named Katy going on a treasure hunt with her cat Max will capture the imagination of readers. Search Judith Rackham's outstanding illustrations for plants and animals as exotic as volcano limpets and as common as red clover. This unique story imparts some profound truths.



Recommended EARLY YEARS

Page, P.K. THE TRAVELLING MUSICIANS. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. unp. \$11.95 HC 1-55074-039-3

A satisfactory retelling of the Grimm's Bremen town musicians, illustrated with Kady MacDonald Denton's charming expressive watercolours that are pleasingly worked around the text. The appearance of instruments at the beginning and end but not in the middle of the story puzzled students. Not a must buy but a pleasant addition.

Finalist 1991 Governor General's Literary Award Children's Literature - Illustration.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Paré, Roger. WINTER GAMES. Toronto: Annick Press, 1991. unp. \$4.95 PB 1-55037-184-3; \$14.95 HC 1-55037-187-8

This is a simple rhyming story in which an unusual mix of animal characters pursue everyone's favourite winter activities. Rabbits, monkeys, owls, elephants, and others happily sleigh ride, snowball fight, ice fish, ski, snowshoe and skate. Roger Paré has produced a complementary blend of verse and watercolour illustrations which will appeal to young readers.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Poulin, Stéphane. TRAVELS FOR TWO: STORIES AND LIES FROM MY CHILDHOOD. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1991. unp. \$5.95 PB 1-55037-204-1; \$15.95 HC 1-55037-205-X

A highly imaginative yarn, related by the author, of the family's magical stow-away holiday that took them to a tropical island visited by pirates. Magnificent double page acrylic on canvas paintings in typical Poulin style capture the momentum of the tale.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Punt, Irene. **THE BOP**. Richmond Hill: Scholastic-TAB Publications, 1989. 30 pp. \$4.59 PB 0-590-73204-8

The Bop is a tuneful, joyful story of the "absurd plot" variety. The idea of a catchy jingle, repeated over and over again in the same manner as Robert Munsch's Mortimer is found here with a new twist. Here, the catchy tune travels from person to person. Before the surprise ending, it will surely have caught on with its audience as well. Fina Holdcroft's illustrations provide just the right bounce and flair.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Robertson, Joanne. **SEA WITCHES**. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 1991. unp. \$16.95 HC 0-19-540800-4

The author tells the story of an old Scottish superstition in 26 adroitly crafted haiku stanzas. A grandmother tells her grandson why he must shatter the shells of his soft-boiled eggs after he eats them. She tells of "ghastly ghost witches" that gather in search of eggshells to turn into ships and ride out to sea. Using their magic, they unleash a terrible storm on an unsuspecting ship of honest sailors, taking them down to tragic death. Robinson waxes eloquent in her description of the sea storm and the witches' malice. Laszlo Gal's superb illustrations have a characteristically subdued magnificence; and, offering much to see, invite the reader's prolonged examination.

Highly recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Silsbe, Brenda. **JUST ONE MORE COLOUR**. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1991. unp. \$4.95 PB 1-55037-136-3; \$14.95 HC 1-55037-133-9

A jolly tale in which Mr. Hall gets very involved in painting his house. Each time he picks a colour to match something in the environment, there is a change and so he proceeds to match something else instead. Finally after much painting, and overwrought from all the work, he spatters the house with a multitude of colours: the resulting multicoloured house provides a warm, cheery contrast to the whiteness of winter.



Recommended EARLY YEARS

Steiner, Connie Colker. PAUL'S NEW EARS. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991. unp. \$9.95 PB 0-920541-44-5

Paul is unhappy with his new grown-up haircut because his ears show until his father explains that Paul's ears are really quite ordinary compared to those of other members of the animal kingdom. A gentle story of change and growth that will reassure many pre-schoolers. Simple colour illustrations boldly outlined in black effectively capture the mood.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Stinson, Kathy. WHO IS SLEEPING IN AUNTY'S BED? Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 1991. unp. \$7.95 PB 0-19-540852-7; \$14.95 HC 0-19-540824-1

In this slight story of a family visit everyone has her sleep disturbed except Dad. When Aunty snores, Meg moves in with Mom and Dad. When Meg thrashes Mom moves in with Aunty. When Mom sings... The family closeness and humour of the story are deftly revealed in the facial expressions of the large, simply drawn characters. The ending which implies the process will be repeated is anticlimactic.

Recommended with reservations EARLY YEARS

Thompson, Richard. MAGGEE AND THE LAKE MINDER. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1991. unp. \$4.95 PB 1-55037-152-5; \$14.95 HC 1-55037-154-1

Fernandes' illustrations are a splendiferous interpretation of this whimsical story. When "Maggee", a young girl, visits "Kawartha", the frog and "The Bird", the bird, Kawartha gets so carried away with the entertainment of their guest that he forgets about his job as lake-minder, resulting in an incredible flood. Afterwards Kawartha begs Maggee to come back and visit again, promising to stick to "just one song and a cup of tea, and then right back to work".

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Tibo, Gilles. SIMON IN SUMMER. Montreal: Tundra Books, 1991. unp. \$10.95 HC 0-88776-247-6

Completes the Simon series which capitalizes on the dramatic irony in which the young audience knows that Simon will fail in his attempts to affect the seasons. In contrast to Simon welcomes spring, in which Simon hurries spring's arrival, Simon is now trying everything to make summer stay! If unsuccessful, the results are humourous. And finally, there is the consolation of summer's end the return of friends.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Zola. NOODLE, NITWIT, NUMSKULL. [Silhouette folktales] Kingston: Quarry Press, 1990. unp. \$7.95 PB 0-919627-89-7; \$12.95 HC 0-919627-87-0

This is a disappointing book. Anyone knowledgeable of the author's skills will expect something different. It is the author's choice of story that seems to be the problem. The retelling of this old tale from the rich treasury of Eastern European traditions is probably well-crafted, but the story itself is mean-spirited and will conflict with values that children have learned.

The superb drawings also will be lost on most children. This is not a tale that travels well to the twentieth century.

Not recommended MIDDLE YEARS

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - POETRY

A/LONG PRAIRIE LINES: AN ANTHOLOGY OF LONG PRAIRIE POEMS. Daniel S. Lenoski, editor. Winnipeg: Turnstone Press, 1989. 343 pp. \$16.95 PB 0-88801-143-1



As the title suggests these Prairie long poems, a genre specific to the Prairie region, are LONG, probably too long for effective classroom use, even at the Grade 12 level. The eleven poems in the anthology represent "a voyage through the physical, psychic and verbal geography of Western Canada" and as such delve into topics unsuitable for the high school classroom. The abundance of footnotes assist the reader, thus making the volume a good reference for teacher/researchers.

Not recommended Adult

Lane, Patrick. WINTER. Regina: Coteau Books, 1990. 45 pp. \$8.00 PB 1-55050-002-3; \$21.95 HC 1-55050-003-1

These introspective poems travel hauntingly through physical and spiritual winter landscapes. They evoke both emptiness and fullness, inhabit a world both barren and fertile.

Lane creates beautiful images and through the images, both directly and implicitly, confronts the reader with questions. The answers are never easy, for this is poetry about loss and isolation, love (or what we imagine to be love) and change.

Highly recommended SENIOR YEARS

Page, Rose. WISDOM FROM NONSENSE LAND. Victoria: Porcepic Books, 1991. unp. \$9.95 PB 0-88878-297-7

A very sweet and interesting collection of poems. This is a publication of a book of poems that poet P.K Page's mother and father wrote for her and her two cousins in 1918. The poems are, taken as a whole, a prescription for life, rendered humourously in picture and verse. Basically, aspects of life are presented as either things to abide ("Joy", the "Littlesleep", "Love", "Fun", and "Jokes") and things to avoid (the "Hiccup", "Greed", the "Rumour", the "Cold, the "Mighthavebeen"). The result is quaint and loving, neither preachy nor prosaic.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Poirier, Thelma. GRASSLANDS. Regina: Coteau Books, 1990. 79 pp. \$8.00 PB 1-55050-006-6

This anthology of 54 short poems arose out of a brief prepared for a public hearing on the development of Grasslands National Park in southwestern Saskatchewan in 1976. The mystery and charm of the area is portrayed, powerfully and passionately, from early times to the present day. The volume could be used in any Canadian studies program.

Recommended SENIOR YEARS

Saunders, Margaret. BRIDGING THE GAP: IMMIGRANT POEMS. Goderich: Moonstone Press, 1990. 63 pp. \$7.95 0-920259-31-6

"Bridging the Gap" between the two worlds is sensitively and compassionately presented in this collection of poems about immigrating to a new country, Canada, and returning to revisit the old homeland, Great Britain. Although Saunders' writing is very personal it portrays universal feelings with wide ranging appeal. The poems could possibly be used in a social studies unit on immigration as well as in an English program at the high school level.

Recommended SENIOR YEARS

THE UNIVERSE IS ONE POEM. George Swede, editor. Toronto: Simon & Pierre Publishing, 1990. 120 pp. \$14.95 PB 0-88924-224-0

According to the authors the aim of this valuable help for teachers and students is "to rekindle or keep alive interest in poetry among elementary and high-school students". Four well-known, well-qualified poets discuss the evolution of a poem, specifically the development of poetic ideas and the use of imagery and sound, using student work as examples of the techniques. Interesting features of this publication include a biography of each of the four presenters and notes at the end of the book. Certainly, this is a reference guide for any school.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS



Whelan, Pat. A SILLY CODFISH TALE / UN CONTE EN L'AIR D'UNE MORUE AMUSANTE. St. John's: Jesperson Press, 1989. 27 pp. \$7.95 PB 0-921692-14-5

This poetic version of a cod preparing itself for dinner reads like a TV jingle which might be used by the Fish Marketing Board of Newfoundland.

Not recommended EARLY YEARS

Woods, Elizabeth. **BIRD SALAD**. Goderich: Moonstone Press, 1990. 79 pp. \$8.95 PB 0-920259-28-6

Through 58 modern poems Elizabeth Woods, a British Columbia writer, creatively reveals her eclectic past and present experiences/interests. Some poems have refrains, enhancing their rhythmic quality; while others are shape poems, tempting the imagination. Useful at the middle/high school level not only to appreciate the poetry, but also to demonstrate the various forms poetry can take.

Recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

ZOOMERANG A BOOMERANG: POEMS TO MAKE YOU BELLY LAUGH. Compiled by Caroline Parry. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. 32 pp. \$4.95 PB 1-55074-050-4

This book is a great buy--entertaining, inexpensive, and humourous, mostly because of the illustrations. Michael Martchenko (well-known for illustrating over a dozen of Robert Munsch's books) shows his genius in such treasures as Garbage day. Caroline Parry, the compiler, has drawn from a number of international sources, including Canadian. There is variety in the styles of poetry--primary students will love joining in at every possible opportunity.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - SHORT STORIES

Montgomery, Lucy Maud. AMONG THE SHADOWS: TALES FROM THE DARKER SIDE. Rea Wilmshurst, editor. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1990. 310 pp. \$24.95 HC 0-7710-6155-2

See description under LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - FICTION

MISCELLANEOUS

Pay, Murray V. ON PARADE: THE ORGANIZER'S GUIDE TO PLANNING PARADES AND FLOATS. Saskatoon: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1990. 140 pp. \$17.95 PB 0-88833-342-0

This comprehensive manual leaves no stone uncovered for anyone planning a parade or involved in building a float. It includes ideas for committee members' responsibilities, administrative details, and actual plans for simple floats. Useful for the community-oriented school.

Recommended SENIOR YEARS

NATIVE STUDIES

BYRON THROUGH THE SEASONS: A DENE-ENGLISH STORY BOOK BY THE CHILDREN OF LA LOCHE AND FRIENDS. Edited by the La Loche Library Board. Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers, 1990. unp. \$14.95 HC 0-920079-60-1

Here is a beautiful combination of fact and fiction. Aspects of Dene life which were vital in the past and are still important today are depicted in pictures and words by the children of this school in Saskatchewan. Students, community families, and elders were all consulted in the creation of this project, and there are notes at the back giving more



detailed descriptions. Byron through the seasons is the story which Byron's Grandfather Jonas tells of life through the seasons, and which Byron imagines. This title is an excellent cross-cultural title.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

NATIVE STUDIES - FICTION

Harrison, Ted. THE BLUE RAVEN. Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, 1989. unp. \$16.95 HC 0-7715-9288-4

A young Athabaskan lad leaves his home on the banks of the Yukon River and sets off on a quest to find the Great Shaman and save his people from starvation. The tale of Pik's adventure and the magical blue raven who helps him is beautifully written and illustrated by Ted Harrison. This book draws on the style of North American Native art and storytelling. A colourful, appealing selection.

Highly recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Ross, Elia Hopper. CRY TO THE MOMENT. Burlington: Perfect Pages of Burlington, 1989. 414 pp. \$23.95 PB 1-895047-00-5

See description under CANADIAN STUDIES - GEOGRAPHY

NATIVE STUDIES - LEGENDS

Caduto, Michael J. KEEPERS OF THE ANIMALS: NATIVE STORIES AND WILDLIFE ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN. Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers, 1991. 266 pp. \$22.95 HC 0-920079-88-1

A new addition to the fabulous Keepers series, this

one will also provide stories, information and classroom ideas for activities and discussions. As in the previous publication, **Keepers of the earth**, this title will help to foster an appreciation of Native American cultural heritage; but here the nature study is focussed on living creatures. Thorough indexing makes it possible to access specific subjects, themes or activities directly.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Caduto, Michael J. KEEPERS OF THE EARTH: NATIVE STORIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN. Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers, 1989. 235 pp. \$22.95 HC 0-920079-57-1

TEACHER'S GUIDE TO KEEPERS OF THE EARTH by Michael J. Caduto. Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers, 1988. 47 pp. \$9.95 PB 1-55591-040-8

NATIVE STORIES FROM KEEPERS OF THE EARTH by Joseph Bruchac. Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers, 1991. 96 pp. \$10.95 PB 0-920079-76-8

Together, these three titles provide an invaluable resource for both Native and environmental studies. Building on native North American traditional lifestyle, folklore and survival skills, the aboriginal sense of stewardship is emphasized. There is a strong practical orientation with lots of information about the earth and its inhabitants as well as ideas for bringing children into the processes of observation and appreciation. The teacher's guide relates the general intentions of **Keepers of the** earth and how they fit with child development and educational philosophy as well as providing background information on storytelling, culture and tribes.

Highly recommended EARLY, MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS



NATIVE STUDIES - NONFICTION

Leden, Christian. ACROSS THE KEEWATIN ICEFIELDS: THREE YEARS AMONG THE CANADIAN ESKIMOS, 1913-1916. Winnipeg: Watson & Dwyer Publishing, 1990. 298 pp. \$17.00 PB 0-920486-46-0; \$35.00 HC 0-920486-19-3

See description under CANADIAN STUDIES - HISTORY

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Asselin, Marlene et al. STORYWORLDS: LINKING MINDS AND IMAGINATION THROUGH LITERATURE. [Pippin teacher's library; 2] Markham: Pippin Publishing, 1991. 72 pp. \$8.95 PB 0-88751-030-2

Storyworlds provides refreshing new directions for literature programs for grades one to four. A few theme examples are interesting topics different from the usual. Centers are discussed as part of the theme framework. Canadian titles have been included in an excellent bibliography.

Highly recommended TEACHER REFERENCE

Caduto, Michael J. KEEPERS OF THE EARTH: NATIVE STORIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN. Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers, 1989. 235 pp. \$22.95 HC 0-920079-57-1

TEACHER'S GUIDE TO
KEEPERS OF THE EARTH by Michael J.
Caduto. Saskatoon : Fifth House Publishers,
1988. 47 pp. \$9.95 PB 1-55591-040-8

NATIVE STORIES FROM KEEPERS OF THE EARTH by Joseph Bruchac. Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers, 1991. 96 pp.

\$10.95 PB 0-920079-76-8

See description under NATIVE STUDIES - LEGENDS

Draper, Graham A. GLOBAL ATLAS. Toronto: Gage Educational Publishing, 1991. 96 pp. \$27.50 PB 0-7715-8170-X

RESOURCE. Toronto : Gage Educational Publishing, 1991. 230 pp. \$34.95 PB 0-7715-8178-5

See description under CANADIAN STUDIES - GEOGRAPHY

Innes, Marie. ENJOYING LANGUAGE: HELPING CHILDREN READ AND WRITE. Calgary: Braun and Braun Educational Enterprises, 1990. 98 pp. \$14.00 PB 0-9690605-7-2

See description under LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - LANGAUGE ARTS (TEACHING)

Lipa, Sara E. et al. THE WHOLE LANGUAGE JOURNEY. [Pippin teacher's library; 3] Markham: Pippin Publishing, 1991. 110 pp. \$9.95 PB 0-88751-030-2

Discusses the standards, activities and support systems pertinent to "whole language" and the "literature-based child-centered approach to learning." This title seems entirely American, and does not provide anything original or different from, or more comprehensive than other titles on the subject. An alternative is The learner's way which is thorough and comprehensive, written clearly and without pretense and is authored by two educators from British Columbia.

Recommended with reservations TEACHER REFERENCE

Lawson, Jennifer E. HANDS-ON SCIENCE: EARLY CHILDHOOD. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991. 121 pp. \$100.00 HC 1895411-02-5



. HANDS-ON SCIENCE: LEVEL ONE. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991. 211

pp. \$100.00 HC 1-895411-04-1

HANDS-ON SCIENCE: LEVEL

TWO. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991. 189 pp. \$100.00 HC 1-895411-06-8

HANDS-ON SCIENCE : LEVEL

THREE. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991. 227 pp. \$100.00 HC 1-895411-08-4

. HANDS-ON SCIENCE : LEVEL

FOUR. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991. 229

pp. \$100.00 HC 1-895411-10-6

See description under SCIENCE

THE UNIVERSE IS ONE POEM. George Swede, editor. Toronto: Simon & Pierre Publishing, 1990. 120 pp. \$14.95 PB 0-88924-224-0

See description under LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - POETRY

REFERENCE

THE CANADIAN WORLD ALMANAC & BOOK OF FACTS. John Filion, editor. Agincourt: Global Press, 1991. 725 pp. \$14.95 PB 0-7715-3975-4

Even though it comprises 725 pages, this almanac is so loaded with information that it still requires a small typeface to fit it all in! Invest in a page magnifier because this one is simply worth the trip! Contains most of what is found in leading American almanacs plus sufficient coverage of Canada.

A fine specimen of an almanac.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

GAGE CANADIAN DICTIONARY, INTERMEDIATE. (Revised) Toronto: Gage Educational Publishing, 1991. 1408 pp. \$30.95

HC 0-7715-1996-6

Quite inclusive and clear in presentation, this dictionary will be an asset to the elementary and middle years school. Its great strength lies in its definitions: they manage to encompass the qualities of simplicity, accuracy and readability.

Highly recommended MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

SCIENCE

Bosak, Susan V. SCIENCE IS... (Rev. 2nd edition) Richmond Hills: Scholastic Canada, 1991. 515 pp. \$29.95 PB 0-590-74070-9

Packed with over 450 investigations, projects, stories, puzzles and challenges, Science is... by Susan V. Bosak is a comprehensive collection of hands-on activities suitable for children aged 6 to 14.

The activities in **Science is...** cover ten areas from traditional (plants, rocks, matter and energy) to the more topical and interdisciplinary (the environment, humans, applying science). They range from the simple to the complex, and vary in length from short activities to projects lasting days or weeks. An extensive index, handy cross-referencing chart and numerous symbols and notations provide easy access to information.

Concise explanations, simple language, lively illustrations, fascinating facts, and a wealth of engaging activities—all combine to make Science is... a treasure trove of scientific fun and exploration for parents, teachers and children alike.

Highly recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Gold, Carol. SCIENCE EXPRESS: AN ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE BOOK OF EXPERIMENTS. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. 96 pp. \$9.95 PB 1-55074-017-2; \$19.95 HC 1-55074-015-6

Travelling air donuts...oozing ooblik...embarrassing borborygmus (stomach rumblings)...these are just a



few of the topics covered in Science express by Carol Gold. Another entry in the Ontario Science Centre series (others include Foodworks and Scienceworks), Science express is a potpourri of more than 35 intriguing investigations suitable for the 8- to 12-year-old.

The book is organized into 5 chapters: Busy Body (body reactions); Have a Ball (the physics of bounce); Play with Your Food (food experiments); Sound Off (sound and hearing); and More Fun (miscellaneous activities).

Although the content is diverse, Science express follows a simple organizational plan. Each activity covers two pages, focuses on a single concept, and has illustrations and coloured highlights to make the text more manageable. Clear directions guide the reader and a "What's Happening" section covers the science behind the activity. An index and table of contents help coordinate the various topics.

Science express will captivate youngsters and adults with an interest in discover-it-yourself science.

Recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Kaner, Etta. SOUND SCIENCE. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. 96 pp. \$9.95 PB 1-55074-054-7

Why do female singers have higher voices than male singers? What ear shape is best for collecting sound? What is an idiophone...how can you make one?

Answers to these and many more questions await the budding scientist in the 35 plus investigations in Sound science by Etta Kaner. Sound science uses simple language, engaging illustrations and an easy-to-follow format. Each activity includes a list of readily accessible materials, step-by-step directions, and is accompanied by a brief scientific explanation. Puzzles, related facts, and additional challenges add further interest.

Intended as an activity book for 8- to 12-year-olds-but also useful to teachers of science, music and health--Sound science skillfully explores the nature of sound, how it is heard and the ways it is used.

Recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Lawson, Jennifer E. HANDS-ON SCIENCE: EARLY CHILDHOOD. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991. 121 pp. \$100.00 HC 1-895411-02-5

. HANDS-ON SCIENCE: LEVEL ONE. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991. 211 pp. \$100.00 HC 1-895411-04-1

. HANDS-ON SCIENCE: LEVEL TWO. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991. 189 pp. \$100.00 HC 1-895411-06-8

HANDS-ON SCIENCE: LEVEL
THREE. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991.
227 pp. \$100.00 HC 1-895411-08-4

HANDS-ON SCIENCE: LEVEL FOUR. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991. 229 pp. \$100.00 HC 1-895411-10-6

This is an outstanding series. Each level contains excellently organized and developed science curricular material, perfectly suited to the levels for which they were intended, and guaranteed to make science rewarding for teachers and students. Structured discussions; background notes; structured research and activities; copy ready charts, diagrams, experiments; poems, as well as a set of visual aids at the back in loose chart form: all these are tidily arranged and neatly presented in a quality binder. The author is as aware of the needs of teachers as she is of the learning styles of young students. She is also thoroughly grounded in the demands and possibilities of the curriculum.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

Penrose, Gordon. DR. ZED'S SENSATIONAL SCIENCE ACTIVITIES. Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1990. 48 pp. \$9.95 PB 0-920775-53-5

Tina Holdcroft's illustrations provide the excellent graphics and amusing cartoon characters whose speech balloons complete the messages of over 20 science activities. The format is user friendly while nothing is left out--materials, process, method, conclusion and basic rules. There is a great range of catchy projects from making kazoos and magnetic hills to physics and animal science experiments, all using no more than everyday materials.



Highly recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Reid, Monty. THE LAST GREAT DINOSAURS: A GUIDE TO THE DINOSAURS OF ALBERTA. [Discovery books] Red Deer: Red Deer College Press, 1990. 184 pp. \$29.95 HC 0-88995-055-5

This title, a book dealing with dinosaurs from the vantage point of those "found" in Alberta, is a singularly fine achievement that will make an excellent reference for all levels. Here is a unique assembly of talent in book design, dinosaur knowledge, illustration, and the very finest in concept organization and clear, enjoyable writing.

The author is the Assistant Director of the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Drumheller, Alberta. Jan Sovak, the illustrator, obtained advanced degrees in Fine Art and Zoology in Czechoslovakia, before immigrating to Canada. His art on prehistorical animals is housed in over 40 museums around the world. The result is an unparalleled marriage of science and art.

Finalist for the 1991 Governor General's Literary Award Children's Literature - text.

Highly recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Ross, Catherine and Susan Wallace. THE AMAZING MILK BOOK. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. 80 pp. \$9.95 PB 1-55074-020-2

As with dirt, eggs, paper and apples, the other titles in the series, this title is an interesting conglomeration of sub-topics on a central theme. Riddles and puns; myths and folklore; craft and science experiments; ideas and recipes plus plenty of factual information are all here. Whether the information is scientific or cultural or historical in nature, it is beautifully complemented by Linda Hendry's buoyant black and white illustrations. Cheese, yogurt, butter, ice-cream, cartons, cows, chemistry, nutrition, biology and more!

Glossary, index and quiz answers at the back.

Highly recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Suzuki, Laura. DAVID SUZUKI ASKS DID YOU KNOW...ABOUT INSIDES AND OUTSIDES?. Toronto: General Paperbacks, 1990. unp. \$4.95 PB 0-7736-7287-7

Interesting observations and facts concerning humans and other creatures are provided in bite-sized bits (one question and answer per page) with perky illustrations. Lots of worthwhile biological information presented in high-interest fashion.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Wood, Jenny. STORMS. Richmond Hill: Scholastic Canada, 1990. 32 pp. \$4.95 PB 0-590-73565-9

The lively colourful magazine-like layout and logical organization of significant information will make this book a worthwhile addition to most collections, particularly since the stitched binding ensures some longevity. In bold typeset the term "storm" is defined before specific types of storms are clearly explained. Concise instructions for making a home weather station are provided. A mediocre, short weather story is included. Glossary and index support research use.

Recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

SCIENCE - AERODYNAMICS/PHYSICS

Schmidt, Norman Jacob. DISCOVER AERODYNAMICS WITH PAPER AIRPLANES. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991. 40 pp. \$14.95 PB 0-920541-43-7

See description under ART - HOBBIES & CRAFTS



SCIENCE - ECOLOGY

Caduto, Michael J. KEEPERS OF THE ANIMALS: NATIVE STORIES AND WILDLIFE ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN. Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers, 1991. 266 pp. \$22.95 HC 0-920079-88-1

See description under NATIVE STUDIES - LEGENDS

Caduto, Michael J. KEEPERS OF THE EARTH: N' ATIVE STORIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL AU SIVITIES FOR CHILDREN. Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers, 1989. 235 pp. \$22.95 HC 0-920079-57-1

TEACHER'S GUIDE TO KEEPERS OF THE EARTH by Michael J. Caduto. Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers, 1988. 47 pp. \$9.95 PB 1-55591-040-8

NATIVE STORIES FROM KEEPERS OF THE EARTH by Joseph Bruchac. Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers, 1991. 96 pp. \$10.95 PB 0-920079-76-8

See description under NATIVE STUDIES - LEGENDS

Degler, Teri. THE CANADIAN JUNIOR GREEN GUIDE. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1990. 120 pp. \$11.95 PB 0-7710-7157-4

The information contained in the Canadian green consumer guide has been simplified, divided into two parts (The Outdoors, and Home and School; each having twelve chapters). Graphics and Dennis Lee poems add to this guide's appeal. The bitesized information and chapters on topics interesting to junior high students will make this a popular book.

Highly recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Fyfe, William S. TEACHER'S RESOURCE BOOK FOR THE CANADIAN JUNIOR

GREEN GUIDE. Markham, Pippin Publishing, 1991. 64 pp. \$15.95 PB 0-88751-029-9

Activities to enhance and supplement The Canadian junior green consumer guide are included under the following divisions: Art, Health, Language Arts, Mathematics, Media Literacy, Social Studies, Science, Guidance and Dramatic Arts. Each theme is treated in at least four divisions, which means most teachers will be able to find an activity to fit his/her class setting.

Highly recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Funston, Sylvia. THE NATURE BOOK. [Green world] Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1991. 48 pp. \$7.95 PB 0-920775-66-7

One of a series of books on the environment, this book focuses on animals and plants and the ways in which we use things. The format is varied, and includes puzzles, experiments, quizzes, facts and games to enlighten the reader. This little book continues a high standard in children's books that has been reached by the editors of Owl Magazine. Designed to be used by individual children, it will help them explore and develop a sound environmentalist attitude, in a fun way.

Recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Hickman, Pamela. PLANTWISE. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. 96 pp. \$9.95 PB 1-55074-044-X; \$19.95 HC 1-55074-091-6

See description under SCIENCE - NATURE STUDY

Pollution Probe Foundation. THE CANADIAN GREEN CONSUMER GUIDE. (Revised and expanded) Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1991. 186 pp. \$13.95 PB 0-7710-7147-7

Revised and expanded, this popular directory is a "must have" addition to all high school libraries. Divided into ten category/chapters, readers will find this guide user-friendly. Should they have problems finding a subject, the index will supply the answer. A directory of green products and companies is included, as well as a list of further reading for the



first six chapters.

Highly recommended SENIOR YEARS

Fyfe, William S. TEACHER'S RESOURCE BOOK FOR THE CANADIAN GREEN CONSUMER GUIDE. Markham: Pippin Publishing, 1991. 87 pp. \$15.95 0-88751-027-2

Articles and activities to enhance and supplement The Canadian green consumer guide, are all coded according to eighteen suggested subject areas. Both intermediate and senior are included with basic, general or advanced levels.

Highly recommended SENIOR YEARS

Savan, Beth. **EARTHCYCLES** AND **ECOSYSTEMS**. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. 96 pp. \$9.95 PB 1-55074-013-X

A highly useful curriculum support book as well as a collection of simple projects/experiments in the ecology field, this highly readable text is complemented by appealing black and white illustrations. Throughout the text are "action trail" signs that highlight activities that children can pursue to make a difference. A sample letter to politicians is included.

Highly recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Woolstencroft, Lynne. KIDS CAN HELP!: HOW TO TAKE CARE OF OUR FRAGILE WORLD. Cambridge: Whitman Golden Ltd., 1991. unp. \$3.95 PB 0-920903-71-1

This book deals with the very timely issue of saving the environment. It clearly explains and gives many examples of the 3R's--Reduce, Re-use and Recycle-from the point of view of how each person can do his/her share to make a difference. The content can be understood by young children and has a one-page glossary which defines unfamiliar terms.

Very bold black and white illustrations.

Highly recommended EARLY YEARS

SCIENCE - ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Ellis, Toni. MAKE A DIFFERENCE: STUDENT ACTIVITIES FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT. Toronto: Is Five Press, 1989. 52 pp. \$9.50 PB 0-920934-34-X

This is not an attractive book: no colour printing is used. Once you begin to read, however, you discover that the authors have spent their time and energy on the more important contents. This book could make a difference. The authors have filled it with accurate information for teachers and others about the environment. Using four themes—waste and energy management, transportation, and recycling—they follow up the information with practical exercises, appropriate alternatives, and directed discussions.

A useful book for teachers.

Recommended TEACHER REFERENCE

Kalman, Bobbie. **BURIED IN GARBAGE**. [Crabtree environment] Mississauga: Crabtree Publishing, 1991. 32 pp. \$8.96 PB 0-86505-454-1; \$15.96 HC 0-86505-424-X

RECYCLING. [Crabtree environment] Mississauga: Crabtree Publishing, 1991. 32 pp. \$8.96 PB 0-86505-456-8; \$15.96 HC 0-86505-426-6

Clearly and attractive formatted, with tables of contents, index and glossary, appropriate colour photos and good size print, Reducing, reusing and recycling goes over all the basics of improving waste management. Implications explored are farranging and suitably introduced by a chapter entitled "Earth is our only home." Buried in garbage goes over the various aspects of garbage providing a nutshell study of garbage technology. In addition, it investigates various conservation strategies, noting their relative impact. An excellent pair of books which fit well together and are very timely.



Highly recommended MIDDLE YEARS

SCIENCE - NATURE STUDY

Batulla, Barbara. INVERTEBRATES: NATURE STORIES FOR CHILDREN. [Wilderness album] Winnipeg: Hyperion Press, 1990. 38 pp. \$5.95 PB 0-920534-57-0

Typical of the series, a realistic animal story along with concise data on phylum, class, size, distribution, food, life history and colour are provided for each creature. Accurate black line illustrations are usually easily interpreted. The comprehensive scope makes this a valuable research source. For those looking for information on the common wood tick, it is here! A well-organized book by a qualified entomologist.

Highly recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Bourgeois, Paulette. THE AMAZING POTATO BOOK. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. 64 pp. \$9.95 PB 1-55074-025-3

This is a wonderful compendium of information about potatoes. Bourgeois has collected many fascinating facts about this very popular vegetable..how and where it became so popular..how potato chips become the world's most popular snack. With its index and glossary, and many delightful illustrations, this book will provide entertainment for all.

Highly recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Caduto, Michael J. KEEPERS OF THE EARTH: NATIVE STORIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN. Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers, 1989. 235 pp. \$22.95 HC 0-920079-57-1

TEACHER'S GUIDE TO KEEPERS OF THE EARTH by Michael J.

Caduto. Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers, 1988. 47 pp. \$9.95 PB 1-55591-040-8

KEEPERS OF THE EARTH by Joseph Bruchac. Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers, 1991. 96 pp. \$10.95 PB 0-920079-76-8

See description under NATIVE STUDIES - LEGENDS

Hamilton, Mary E. WILD EDIBLE: NATURE STORIES FOR CHILDREN. [Wilderness album] Winnipeg: Hyperion Press, 1990. 38 pp. \$5.95 PB 0-920534-51-1

Thirty-one common edible wild plants, randomly ordered, are described in somewhat informative anecdotes preceding specific scientific data. The anecdotes varying in quality range from historical to contemporary. Illustrations are appropriately detailed and accurate but in black and white, so of limited use in identification. An important warning to avoid consuming plants which cannot be positively identified appears on the title page but should have been more prominent.

Recommended with reservations MIDDLE YEARS

Hickman, Pamela. **PLANTWISE**. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. 96 pp. \$9.95 PB 1-55074-044-X; \$19.95 HC 1-55074-001-6

This book is filled with many amazing activities and interesting information about plants. Plant experiments, science activities and other fun things to do are all here. Some of the topics covered are: plant parts, investigating plants, trees are plants too, look at plants up close and how plants are an important part of our daily life.

The pen and ink drawings in this book are excellent.

Highly recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Hoyt, Erich. MEETING THE WHALES: THE EQUINOX GUIDE TO GIANTS OF THE DEEP. Camden East: Camden House Publishing, 1991. 72 pp. \$9.95 PB 0-921820-23-2; \$17.95 HC 0-921820-25-9



This is the fifth in a series of children's science books produced by the editors of <u>Equinox</u> magazine. As well as the usual information about these unique creatures—kinds, enemies, behaviour—the author has included facts about whale watching, photography, communication with humans, and the relationship between whales and the future of the world's oceans.

"Quick fact summaries" on each of the types of whales, illustrations by specialist Peter Folkens, photographs by wildlife photographers, and a well-organized table of contents and index combine to make this an excellent reference source.

Highly recommended MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Kessler, Deirdre. LENA AND THE WHALE. Charlottetown: Ragweed Press, 1991. unp. \$5.95 PB 0-921556-13-6

See description under LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - PICTURE BOOKS

Mason, Helen. LIFE AT THE SEASHORE. Burlington: Durkin Hayes Publishing, 1990. 31 pp. \$3.95 PB 0-88625-269-5; \$14.25 HC 0-88625-270-9

From penguins and glaciers to sand dunes and alligators, the author has included information about plants and animals from warm and cold sea shore climates. This book will be of particular interest to young children who live or visit near these places. Simple experiments, crafts, and activities are included. Failure to include a table of contents and index reduce the book's value as a reference work.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Ripley, Catherine. TWO DOZEN DINOSAURS: A FIRST BOOK OF DINOSAUR FACTS, MYSTERIES, GAMES AND FUN. Vancouver: Greey de Pencier Books, 1991. 32 pp. \$9.95 PB 0-920775-55-1

See description under ACTIVITY BOOKS

Stewart, Janet. SNAKES & OTHER REPTILES. Burlington: Durkin Hayes Publishing, 1989. 31

pp. \$4.95 PB 0-88625-240-7

Young readers interested in this topic will enjoy browsing the colourful, appealing, double-page illustrations and facts presented. The author has included information about snakes and religion as well as the expected locomotion, enemies, and food.

A drawback is the lack of table of contents and index which would have made it a handy reference tool for young researchers.

Recommended EARLY YEARS

Taylor. Dave. ONTARIO'S WILDLIFE. Erin: The Boston Mills Press, 1988. 96 pp. \$19.95 PB 0-919783-85-6

This is a beautiful book. The title is perhaps deceptive, as the author has written about some birds and fish, too. Included in the book is a map of Ontario, tables of content and an index. Young children will have trouble understanding the animal information as the author has presented this in a narrative style, with personal comments about the animals. There is, however, a brief identifier for each animal that includes height, weight, and range. The excellent photography alone makes the book a worthwhile purchase.

Recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Taylor, Dave. SAFARI: JOURNEY TO THE END. Erin: The Boston Mills Press, 1990. 120 pp. \$19.95 PB 1-55046-160-1

Presented in diary form with beautiful colour photos, this is an account of the author's two week journey to Kenya's Masai-Mara National Reserve. His observations and experiences begin in the dry North with its sparse vegetation, proceed to Mount Kenya with its splendid forests, to the Grasslands of Nairobi National Park, and conclude at the place where the grass and sky meet--the place the Masai call "The End."

This beautiful combination of photographs and text will appeal to those who know Kenya and to those who would like to know more. It was written, in part, to convince the reader of the importance of preserving Africa's wildlife. It does this--and more.



Highly recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Thornhill, Jan. A TREE IN A FOREST. Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1991. unp. \$14.95 HC 0-920775-64-0

Jan Thornhill's words and pictures illuminate this concept picture book wonderfully. A natural history fiction, this title narrates the life cycle of a maple tree describing its natural processes and relationships with other living beings throughout the seasons, from falling maple key to maturing tree and finally rotting wood and stump, whose rings can be counted. An impressive plant life story and an everchanging pageant of living creatures. Very suitable for curriculum from grades two to six for both science and social studies dealing with change and the inter-relationships of living things.

Highly recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Tibo, Gilles. SIMON IN SUMMER. Montreal: Tundra Books, 1991. unp. \$10.95 HC 0-88776-247-6

See description under LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - PICTURE BOOKS

Walker, Karen. YUKON CHINOOK: THE REMARKABLE LIFE STORY OF THE YUKON RIVER CHINOOK SALMON. Whitehorse: Yukon Fish and Game Association, 1990. unp. \$8.95 PB 0-9695099-0-1

A chinook salmon narrates the story of his life from the time he was "born" in Michie Creek, Yukon, until he returns to fertilize eggs and dies, at the age of four years. His fascinating story is clearly told using precise scientific terminology which is printed in italics and explained in a glossary. It is attractively illustrated in bold watercolour paintings. Information on the Whitehorse Dam and Fishway is included.

Recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Wood, John Norris. SURVIVAL: COULD YOU BE A MOUSE? Toronto: Macmillan of Canada,

1990. 23 pp. \$6.95 PB 0-7715-9655-3

You are the mouse in this interactive fiction/nature study story. Consider what to do next from a list of possible actions. Then, read what happens with your choice, scoring points accordingly while gaining insight into what it's like to be a mouse. Close-up photographic illustrations employ expert cut and paste technique, setting creatures in appropriately as required by the plot. The result is a startling immediacy suitable to the vivid text.

Highly recommended EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Wrigley, Robert E. REPTILES AMPHIBIANS: NATURE STORIES FOR CHILDREN. [Wilderness album] Winnipeg: Hyperion Press, 1990. 38 pp. \$5.95 PB 0-920534-53-8

Short, informative, realistic animal stories written by a biologist, about North American amphibians (salamanders, caecilians, frogs and toads) and reptiles (snakes, lizards, turtles and crocodilians) are followed by concise accurate data on class, order, family, scientific name, size, distribution, habitat, food and colour. Each half page of text is opposite a detailed black and white drawing of the animal discussed. A valuable resource for research projects.

Recommended MIDDLE YEARS

SCIENCE - PALEONTOLOGY

Lammers, George E. DINOSAURS: NATURE STORIES FOR CHILDREN. [Wilderness album] Winnipeg: Hyperion Press, 1990. 38 pp. \$5.95 PB 0-920534-47-3

The curator of Geology of the Museum of Man and Nature packed much interesting accurate data into this volume. Unfortunately, the stilted prose of the story: "It was Saturday and Christine and Jacob wondered what they could do.

"I know", said Mother. "Let's go to the museum"
"That's a good idea," said Dad..."



will discourage readers. Furthermore, the full page black and white line drawing opposite text format will be less appealing than lavishly illustrated volumes with similar content.

Not recommended MIDDLE YEARS

Stewart, Janet. THE DINOSAURS: A NEW DISCOVERY. Burlington: Cyril Hayes Press/Hayes Publishing, 1989. 32 pp. \$5.95 PB 0-88625-235-0; \$13.95 HC 0-88625-252-0

Instead of providing entries on specific dinosaurs, this book discusses the classification system for dinosaurs, the tools for scientific investigation and the generally accepted evolutionary sequence. In addition, recent discoveries are included. Scientific terms have been accurately used with brief explanations skillfully incorporated. Though the full page colour illustrations are appealing, the text sometimes is challenging to read. No index but good table of contents.

Recommended with reservations MIDDLE YEARS

SCIENCE - TECHNOLOGY

Robinson, Leif J. OUTDOOR OPTICS.
Saskatoon: Western Producer Prairie Books,
1990. 146 pp. \$16.95 PB 0-88833-325-0

The editor of Sky & Telescope magazine has written a clear detailed guide to selecting binoculars and scopes based on technical quality, mechanical design, proposed use and comfort. Numerous helpful diagrams and legible charts including some comparisons are usually well-placed. Mediocre black and white photographs add little. Well-indexed with a useful glossary. Public libraries may want to purchase.

Recommended with reservations SENIOR YEARS

SOCIAL STUDIES

Daumont, Christine. **UPPER CANADA VILLAGE**ON THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER. Belleville
: Mika Publishing Company, 1990. 96 pp.
\$11.95 PB 0-921341-40-7

This title, with its clear, photographic representations of life as it was lived will provide an excellent addition to a study of pioneers. Buildings, furniture, costumes, customs, activities and chores are all beautifully depicted in the detailed colour photographs. Each scene is a "snapshot" of life in the past with descriptive writing below the pictures. An introduction describes the history of this major Eastern Canada tourist attraction, in brief. Highly recommended for its strong pictorial value.

Highly recommended EARLY, MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Ross, Catherine and Susan Wallace. THE AMAZING MILK BOOK. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1991. 80 pp. \$9.95 PB 1-55074-020-2

See description under SCIENCE

Saunders, Margaret. BRIDGING THE GAP: IMMIGRANT POEMS. Goderich: Moonstone Press, 1990. 63 pp. \$7.95 0-920259-31-6

See description under LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - POETRY

Werner, Walter. THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC ISSUES: A GUIDE TO TEACHING CRITICAL MINDEDNESS. London: The Althouse Press, 1990. 81 pp. \$8.95 PB 0-920354-27-0

This book is one of a series of teacher-oriented materials developed from the multicultural educational animation project. It includes five well-structured chapters with examples of how to apply critical thinking skills to public issues of concern to students. The book is a useful teacher resource for courses in current issues and media studies. An extensive bibliography on thinking skills and media



studies is included.

Recommended SENIOR YEARS

Recommended SENIOR YEARS

SOCIAL STUDIES - WORLD ISSUES

Draper, Graham A. **GLOBAL ATLAS**. Toronto : Gage Educational Publishing, 1991. 96 pp. \$27.50 PB 0-7715-8170-X

RESOURCE. Toronto: Gage Educational Publishing, 1991. 230 pp. \$34.95 PB 0-7715-8178-5

See description under CANADIAN STUDIES - GEOGRAPHY

Woolstencroft, Lynne. KIDS CAN HELP!: HOW TO TAKE CARE OF OUR FRAGILE WORLD. Cambridge: Whitman Golden Ltd., 1991. unp. \$3.95 PB 0-920903-71-1

See description under SCIENCE - ECOLOGY

WORLD ISSUES TEACHER'S GUIDE. Judy Norget, editor. Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1991. 247 pp. \$30.00 PB 1-895411-00-9

This comprehensive, easy to use teacher's guide for the eight books of the World issues series is organized so that the instructor can use all or part of the suggested activities with individuals or groups of varying abilities. Through the questions/activities the students, who are encouraged to go beyond textual material, are challenged to analyze and synthesize material, as well as to use lower order thinking skills. The basic skills learned throughout the series include: locating, evaluating, organizing, communicating and interpreting information. Even though the units covered may become dated, the activities could still be used with slight modification in the Grade 12 social studies program.

WOMEN'S STUDIES

Elwin, Rosamund. ASHA'S MUMS. Toronto: Women's Press, 1990. unp. \$5.95 PB 0-88961-143-2

See description under LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - PICTURE BOOKS

Fryer, Mary Beacock. EMILY STOWE: DOCTOR AND SUFFRAGIST. [Canadian medical lives; no. 6] Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1990. 150 pp. \$17.95 HC 1-55002-084-6

See description under CANADIAN STUDIES - BIOGRAPHY



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